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THE ONLINE NEWSPAPER FOR SITTINGBOURNE, ISLE OF SHEPPEY, FAVERSHAM & DISTRICT

www.kentnews.co.uk

Issue no 209

Weather ruins the launch of Milton's night sun

By Steve Knight

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THE launch of Sittingbourne's innovative 'night sun' has been delayed after a freak gust of wind tore the artwork.

Creators of the Sleepers Awake project were hoping to launch the eye-catching piece on Saturday, but the giant globe – which will fly at up to 400ft and be tethered to a boat in Milton Creek – must now undergo repairs.

Crew member John Walters was on board the vessel when the artwork was torn in the early hours of last Thursday.

He said: "I was checking the structure every half-an-hour and everything was fine when all of a sudden the wind hit."

"It was a gust from hell – a real body blow."

The Sleepers Awake project, which will create a vivid ball of light over Sittingbourne and be visible from up to 20 miles away, is the work of artists Heather and Ivan Morison.

Spokesman Simon Steven said the setback was particularly galling as the first week of testing was going extremely well. He added that the globe had been coping with relatively strong winds of about 52mph.

Mr Steven said: "The artists and the production team are of course very disappointed by the setback and can't wait to get the 'night sun' in the air."

The repairs will be carried out by Cameron Balloons in Bristol before the globe returns.



EDUCATION

Have your say on community college's academy proposal

A PUBLIC consultation has been launched over plans to convert Sittingbourne Community College into an academy next year.

Parents, students, staff and other local people are invited to voice their opinions with a view to the college starting the spring term as part of the Westlands Academy Trust.

A consultation document will be sent

home to all parents but an online version is also available at www.proposed-sittingbourneacademy.co.uk.

Headteacher Alan Barham said: "We have had a long and very productive partnership with the Westlands Academies Trust, and changing the college's status to an academy would give us both the opportunity to deepen that relationship, move ahead with improve-

ments to the college and offer a more flexible approach to teaching and learning which we could really tailor to our local population."

He added: "The college has made some huge strides over the past few years and this move would make sure we could build on those improvements and move forward."

If the proposal goes ahead, SCC will

re-open as an academy in January and specialise in performing arts, sports and engineering.

The final decision will be made by Education Secretary Michael Gove, who last week welcomed the fact that nearly 1.2 million children in England are now educated in academies.

There are currently 45 academies open in Kent.

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CRIME

Ex-wife jailed for sunk boat

A WOMAN has been jailed for 18 months for sinking her estranged husband's yacht.

Mandy Fleming, 47, from Sheerness, sank the Double Dragon after becoming angry with her ex for spending money on the vessel. She caused it to sink by drilling holes in the hull, and also left the gas taps on.

AGRICULTURE

Date set for apple festival

THE UK's largest apple festival will take place at Brogdale Farm on the weekend of October 22.

More than 500 varieties will be on display at the farm, which is the home of the National Fruit Collection. Visit www.brogdalecollections.co.uk for more information.

COUNCIL

Politicians back in class

SWALE councillors have been going back to school as part of Local Democracy Week, which runs until Friday.

They have been taking part in various events – including 'political speed-dating' – in an attempt to educate pupils about the role of the council.



Pictured above: Dover Exhibition Conference Hall

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Stars pay tribute to fast bowling Ashes hero Graham Dilley

By Chris Britcher

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WITH a full head of flowing blond hair and standing 6ft 4in, he was an instantly recognisable scourge of batsmen around the world – and this week generations of cricketing heroes lined up to pay tribute to Graham Dilley.

The death on Wednesday of the former Kent and England hero shook the sporting world.

He had faced a short battle with cancer. He was just 52.

Speaking to KoS this week, former Kent and England batsman Chris Tavaré, now a school teacher in Sevenoaks, said: "I was hoping to get to see him this weekend but obviously things took a turn for the worse quicker than anticipated, it's very sad. He was a good friend and a very good bowler."

After a glittering playing career, Mr Dilley had enjoyed spells as part of the England national coaching set-up, before in recent years becoming head cricket coach at Loughborough University.

It is believed he was admitted to a hospice in Leicestershire at the start of the week.

He was twice divorced and leaves four children, including Chris Pennell, captain of Premiership rugby club Worcester Warriors.

Born in Dartford, the young bowler quickly established himself as a talent to watch and by 18 he made his first class debut for Kent in a match against Cambridge University.

He would not properly establish himself at the St Lawrence for another year, however, when he would settle down and form a key part of a side which featured the likes of Bob Woolmer, Chris Tavaré and Derek Underwood.

A surprise inclusion in the 1979 Ashes touring squad, his star was in the ascendency, and in 1981 he wrote his name in the history books when he formed part of the quick-fire stand with Ian Botham at the famous Ashes Test in Headingly.

Proving his prowess with the bat, he and Botham bashed out 117 runs in just 80 minutes, Dilley securing his first half-century en route to a vital 56 which would pave the way for perhaps England's most famous ever victory.

Botham had famously told him as he walked to the crease "let's give it some humpty". He did just that.

By 1986 his relationship with Kent soured and he opted to sign for the ambitious Worcestershire, along with Botham – forming a key part of their team which won back-

to-back championship titles in 1988 and 1989.

By opting to play on the rebel tour of South Africa he brought down the curtain on his England career, and with recurring injuries he called time on his playing career in 1992.

After retiring, he moved into coaching and enjoyed spells as an assistant coach with the England men's team and bowling coach to the England women's team before taking up a position at Loughborough University.

Chairman of Kent Cricket Club, George Kennedy, said: "The entire club are saddened by the passing of Graham, who served Kent with great distinction during his time here. Our thoughts are with his family at this tragic time."

England star Kevin Pietersen said he was "an amazing guy – always smiling", team-mate Stuart Broad added he was a "wonderful fast bowler and lovely man".

Botham added: "He had a good sense of humour and always wanted to be a part of the party."

"He was quiet and reserved until you got to know him. It's a very sad day."

■ Read more of Chris Tavaré's memories of playing with Graham Dilley on our sports pages.



STAR: Graham Dilley proved his skill in 1981 when he played his part in securing what is possibly England's most famous Ashes victory

NEWS IN BRIEF

► Russell hacking claim

DR Shaun Russell – father of the sole survivor of a hammer attack which saw his wife and youngest daughter killed – has joined the list of people taking legal action against News International amid allegations of phone hacking. Josie Russell was nine when she and her family were attacked as they walked home through Chilenden near Canterbury. Her sister Megan, six, and mother Lin were both murdered in the 1996 attack. Michael Stone was convicted of their killings. This week Dr Russell was among 13 alleged victims of the phone hacking scandal to file civil claims.

► NHS 'destroyed files'

AN NHS trust has been told there is "no excuse" for the bungle that saw 10,000 archived records accidentally destroyed. Health chiefs at Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust have been unable to establish how many of the records contained personal information, but some did have names and addresses of former patients and some staff, and a "limited amount" of medical information. The Information Commissioner's Office ruled the trust breached the Data Protection Act.

► Dancing to new record

MORE than 1,000 dancing queens who performed a special Abba routine along Broadstairs Prom have set an official Guinness World Record for the biggest remote dance class.

The event was held in May as part of the Big Broadstairs Weekend to promote the town. Money raised from the dance was donated to the Royal Marsden Cancer Campaign and the QEJM hospital special babies unit.

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NHS

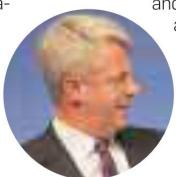
Experts' health reform warning

LEADING health professionals in Kent are among almost 400 experts warning that plans to reform the NHS risk causing "irreparable harm".

In a letter published in the Daily Telegraph on the day Health Secretary Andrew Lansley (pictured) spoke at the Tory Party conference, experts from across the country said the changes must be rejected as they represent a risk to patient care and safety.

Among those who signed the letter were Amy Bird, speciality registrar in public health for Kent; Professor Stephen Clift, professor of health education at Canterbury Christ Church University; Dr Linda Garvican, quality assurance director for cancer screening programmes at NHS South East Coast; and Dr Angela Bhan, director of public health and managing director of Bromley Business Support Unit.

The doctors suggested the NHS reforms – due to be discussed in the House of Lords next week – will fragment services, possibly threatening vaccination and screening campaigns.



They wrote: "As public health doctors and specialists, we are concerned about the Health and Social Care Bill. The bill will do irreparable harm to the NHS, to individual patients and to society as a whole.

"The Government claims the reforms have the backing of the health professions. They do not. Neither do they have the public's support.

"The Health and Social Care Bill will erode the NHS's ethical and co-operative foundations and will not deliver efficiency, quality, fairness or choice."

A Department of Health spokesman said plans to reform the NHS will give patients more choice, root out waste, and give NHS staff more power to improve care.

He added that a group of the country's top doctors and NHS experts had already analysed the health bill, and that the department had accepted all their recommendations to improve it.

"Many GPs and other doctors have also already spoken out in support," he said.

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ANIMALS

The hunt is on for big cat as deer found savaged by woodland path

By Ed Hill

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IS this bleeding carcass all that remains of a savage attack by a wild big cat?

That is the claim of an expert who was handed these gruesome shots of the remains of a deer found in woodland between Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge.

Big cat expert Neil Arnold, from Rochester, believes it is further proof of an animal like a leopard or puma roaming our woodland.

He says he is keeping the exact location secret as he wants to set up a hidden camera to try and capture the beast.

The fresh carcass of the deer was discovered just off a pathway in an area of woodland by James Mitsos as he was walking his dog in the area. He took some photographs of the unfortunate victim and sought expert help.

Big Cat expert Neil Arnold who examined the photos said: "The carcass shows all the signs of a big cat attack. When a leopard or puma kills its prey it always does it by biting the throat. That then leaves puncture marks in the neck. It also dislocates the neck of the prey."

"It then rasps the skin and carcass with its tongue which is like sandpaper; that peels the fleece back. Then it eats and licks the meat down to the bone. It leaves the head and mainly eats the soft parts of the body. There is no way an animal like a fox or badger could eat a carcass like this."

Mr Arnold says the dense woodland area around Tunbridge Wells is ideal for big cats to inhabit: "I have got photos of paw prints and carcasses near Penshurst and Pembury. It is such a dense area of woodland it is perfect for a cat like that to live there."

This week he also said there had been sightings of a "labrador-sized black cat" at Paddlesworth Lakes, near Snodland, and another large black



DINNER: Expert Neil Arnold says the deer carcass appears to have been killed and eaten by a big cat

cat on a country lane in Cooling, near Strood.

Discovering a deer carcass attacked by big cats is relatively rare because their main prey is made up of smaller animals.

Mr Arnold said: "Leopard in this country eat rabbit, pheasants and pigeons but of course we never find much evidence because everything is eaten. There are millions of rabbits that would sustain a big cat population."

Mr Arnold believes the leopards and pumas seen in the wild are the descendants of animals released in the 60s and 70s.

He said: "A lot of people bought these animals then. We are not talking about lions and tigers. Leopards' are very elusive and one could live in an area of 70 square miles. There is enough area to support a population."

Mr Arnold says he still receives reportings of sightings around three or four times a week.

He said: "People say these animals don't exist but these sightings have been going on for so long there must be some truth in it. These animals have not just escaped from

a zoo because they are recaptured or shot."

Mr Arnold, who has his own website dedicated to the phenomenon of big cats in the UK, added: "We have even found the hair from these animals. Recently we had a sheep kill near Rolvenden and some black hairs found on the carcass were analysed. They came back as being from a black leopard. If that evidence was put in a court of law it would be believed."

If you spot a big cat or have any information call Mr Arnold on 01634 819746.

DEVELOPMENT

MP defends his planning reforms

GREG Clark took to the stand at the Conservative Party Conference this week to hammer home reassurances on the Government's controversial planning reform proposals.

The Tunbridge Wells MP and minister for centralisation and cities has come under heavy fire from conservation groups in recent weeks over the plans to simplify planning "with a presumption in favour of sustainable development".

The likes of the National Trust and Protect Kent – the local branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England – have reacted angrily to the draft National Planning Policy Framework, claiming it will see building on previously protected greenbelt land.

Speaking in Manchester this week, the MP said: "We are stewards of a matchless countryside.

"We want our children – and



BUILDING: Greg Clark insists his changes to planning policy are for the good of communities

their children – to be as proud of it as we are. And believe me, there is no charity, no campaign, no concerned citizen who feels more strongly about cherishing our countryside than we do.

"So of course, we'll make use of brownfield land before greenfield land; we'll insist on excellent design not

Legotowns and we'll make sure planning decisions are taken by local people who know and love where they live – not by those regional bureaucracies or visiting inspectors."

The National Trust is continuing to push its members to sign a petition opposing the plans.

Director general Dame Fiona Reynolds said: "We support the simplification and streamlining of the planning system and agree that it needs to provide land for new housing, jobs and infrastructure as well as protecting the environment. We are also keen to see greater engagement by local people in the decisions that affect their future.

"What we question is the present draft NPPF, which does not deliver these goals. It needs significant change to properly reflect the ambition of balance."

NEWS IN BRIEF

► Cinema goes digital

TUNBRIDGE WELLS' Trinity Theatre has upgraded its cinema experience after confirming it will be showing digital copies of hit movies for the autumn season.

The theatre hopes that by making the switch from 35mm to digital, and the resulting increase in quality, it will prove a bit hit with audiences.

Theatre administrator Katherine Pursey said: "Digital projection is the future and will give the cinema much greater flexibility than the current technology involving receiving prints on reels."

► Tories win nationalist

A MEDWAY councillor for the nationalist English Democrats party has defected to the Tories.

Ron Sands, a parish councillor in Hoo who had stood for the party during the last General Election polling 4.5 per cent of the vote, blamed his defection on "an influx of BNP big hitters" in the English Democrats.

Rochester and Strood MP Mark Reckless and the local Tories "warmly welcomed" the decision.

► Keep your hands clean

HEALTH chiefs at the Medway Maritime Hospital are reminding patients and visitors of the importance of good hand hygiene to prevent an outbreak of winter vomiting bug the Norovirus.

The highly contagious illness causes vomiting, diarrhoea, fever, headache, stomach cramps and aching limbs and can last for up to 60 hours.

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News

POLICY

Parties collide on 'meddling' EU call for 20mph urban limit

By Marijke Cox

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POLITICAL parties have clashed over an EU decision to back 20mph limits in urban areas.

Strong recommendations were made in the European Parliament last week for an EU-wide urban speed limit of 20mph.

Although the support lacks the force of law, recommendations made in the European Parliament can be influential in shaping policy within governments on a national and local level.

But the move has sparked a clash between the Green Party and Conservative members in Kent.

Maidstone Green Party, which has been pushing for a drop in speed around schools, celebrated the EU support, stating there was now no excuse for residential roads to remain at 30mph.

"Councillors need to seize this opportunity to make life better for all," said spokesman Stuart Jeffery.

In August, highways chiefs at Kent County Council announced they would be trialling a 20mph speed limit around six primary schools in Maidstone early next year in a bid to improve road safety.

Mr Jeffery said: "The council is dipping its toe into 20mph zones outside schools, which is a step in the right direction, but the weight of opinion must now quickly take them to making all of our streets safer."

"The vast majority of residents would feel and be safer with cars coming past their houses at 20mph instead of 30mph."

Green South East MEP Keith Taylor added:

"This limit would ensure drivers have to respect the same road rules no matter where they drive, making it easier for drivers and safer for all those on or near our roads."

But while the Greens were celebrating, Tory MEPs condemned the recommendations.

They claimed it was an example of EU "meddling".

Daniel Hannan, who represents the South East, including Kent, in Brussels, said the proposal was another example of Europe trying to dictate to Britain on issues that should be decided locally.

"Of course speed limits as low as 20mph or so can be right in some very specific areas, especially near schools or nurseries, but every location is different and these decisions need to be made case by case. Not by a Europe-wide edict."

A potential change to motorway speed has also been discussed this week, with transport secretary Philip Hammond confirming plans to consult on raising the limit to 80mph.

Speaking at the Conservative Party conference this week, he said the current 70mph limit had become "discredited" and failed to keep pace with advances in motoring.

But Maidstone Green Party's Mr Jeffery said local members would campaign against the proposed rise.

"Fuel costs and CO2 emissions will increase significantly, as will accidents and air pollution," he said.

"The M20 corridor already suffers with bad air quality – an 80mph limit would simply make this worse."



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Cable theft could take your life

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

WEST Kent police has rapped out a warning to thieves stealing cable that by doing so they could kill or seriously hurt themselves – in addition to causing chaos to communication and power networks.

It follows a spate of metal thefts from electrical and telephone cables and a number of arrests.

However, police say many of these cables are live and anyone attempting to steal copper or lead from them could be potentially putting themselves and others in grave danger.

A targeted campaign has taken place recently which has seen officers making checks of scrap yards, targeting known offenders for metal theft and offering crime prevention advice to businesses.

Superintendent Adrian Futers of Kent Police said: "Due to the increasing price of metal in the world markets, we are aware that this is becoming a serious issue in Kent.

"Many of these thieves are opportunists and will regrettably put the price of metal way ahead of their own safety."

"We would like to warn any-



DEADLY: Cable theft can directly and indirectly endanger people's lives

one thinking of trying this in the future that they are endangering their lives in committing this sort of crime. We have already made a number of arrests for the theft of metal cable and we will continue to crack down on what is largely a very thoughtless and reckless crime for a comparatively small amount of money.

Loss of life and injury has occurred as a result of metal thefts. Since the upturn in metal theft, a number of people have been killed and others seriously injured, par-

ticularly when trying to steal live electricity cable from sub-stations or railway infrastructure.

"Not only would domestic and industrial applications suffer if power, telecommunications or water supplies were disrupted by metal theft, but other vital parts of the community could suffer as well. Schools may be forced to close if they have no power and hospitals will have difficulty dealing with both emergency and non-emergency cases.

"As with water and electricity, telecommunications are a vital el-

ement of today's society, without which routine and emergency calls cannot be made. The most serious impact would be felt by frontline emergency services, which would be unable to receive calls.

"What we need metal thieves to take on board is that the impact of this crime is far-reaching and can even present a real threat to life of both the individuals who steal it and the wider community."

Luke Beeson, BT's general manager, added: "Kent is the fourth worst area in the country for malicious damage to the telecoms network caused by cable thieves.

"Many vital services are delivered over our network and the selfish gains made by these criminals are nothing compared to the impact and inconvenience caused by the loss of service to the people of Kent, particularly the elderly and vulnerable for whom a telephone is a lifeline."

He said there was a £1,000 reward for information that led to a conviction.

Anyone with any knowledge of metal thieves operating in their area is asked to call Kent Police on 01622 690690 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555111.

NEWS IN BRIEF

→ Leader mans phones

TUNBRIDGE Wells Borough Council leader Bob Atwood went 'back to the floor' this week when he joined staff on the council's switchboard to field enquiries from residents.

Clr Atwood joined chief executive William Benson in answering the phone and fielding queries in the town's Gateway centre as part of this year's National Customer Service Week.

→ Vote for advice centre

INJURED military personnel from around the country could be set to benefit from a new advice centre in Aylesford – if funding is secured.

Tonbridge & Malling Citizens' Advice Bureau is teaming up with Royal British Legion Industries to set up a satellite advice centre in the town's RBLI village. It would also include support for local people facing hardship.

People are asked to vote for the bid to be in with a chance of a £6,000 grant on the communityforce.natwest.com website.

→ MP breaks footie rules

CHATHAM and Aylesford MP Tracey Crouch defied a ban barring her from playing in a football match as a team of MPs took on a side of journalists during this week's Conservative Party Conference.

As a result, the game's referee and linesmen withdrew as it went against Football Association rules. The MP is an accomplished player and used to coach a girls' team. Not that her presence made a big difference – the MPs lost 5-1.

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'Naive' Iraq veteran slammed for police ambitions

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

AN ARMY veteran famed for an inspirational Iraq War speech has been branded "naïve" after declaring his intention to become Kent's first police commissioner.

Colonel Tim Collins was awarded an OBE after delivering the morale-boosting message to troops – a copy of which was hung in the Oval Office by then-President George W Bush – on the eve of the conflict in March, 2003.

The Whitstable resident, who resigned from the Army a year later and now runs a firm training foreign policemen, announced this week that he wants to represent

the Conservatives in becoming Kent's first elected police commissioner.

But the chairman of Kent Police Federation, Ian Pointon, says the Northern Irishman could be in for a shock if his bid is successful.

"Col Collins served this country well and was an inspirational leader," he said. "But this is the police, not the military. It's a completely different world."

"I think he's shown a high degree of political naïvety because Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) are not going to be leading the police – that will still be the job of the chief constables. There will be no eve-of-battle speeches here."

Due to be introduced next



CANDIDATE: Col Tim Collins

year, PCCs will replace the police authorities currently responsible for hiring chief constables and holding them to account.

The chairwoman of Kent Po-

lice Authority is Ann Barnes, who sits as one of seven independent members alongside seven Tories, one Labour and one Lib Dem.

Col Collins – who this week told KoS reporters he was too busy to speak about his plans to stand in Kent – was born in Belfast and served in Bosnia, Kosovo and Iraq before quitting the Army in 2004 after becoming disillusioned.

The 51-year-old told the Sunday Telegraph he was inspired by the achievements of former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani, who reduced crime through tougher policing.

"He made New York a better place through community partnership and involving people, and I don't see why we

couldn't do the same," he said.

"This is a job for someone energetic and who is willing to work with the chief constable. It's important it doesn't become just a talking shop for knackered old policemen or a sunset gig for some trough-loving councillor."

Kent Police is currently battling to save £50 million over four years due to a 20 per cent cut in government funding.

Jobs are on the line as a result, including 500 officers and 1,000 support staff.

"A big point Col Collins missed about Rudy Giuliani was that he cut crime with rising police numbers," said Mr Pointon. "It wasn't just down to tougher policing and partnership working. It was be-

cause he had more cops than he did before, and we forgot that at our peril."

"The role of the PCC takes us into potentially dangerous new ground around the politicisation of the police. They will have the power to hire and fire chief constables, which will present unwelcome pressure leading up to elections."

"I can't see what's fundamentally wrong with the current system. Is it perfect? Absolutely not, but I don't think it's broken. At a time when we're cutting officer numbers and budgets are shrinking, we would be better off spending the £2m it's going to cost per election on policing."

Kent Police Authority declined to comment.

TOURISM

Historic sites top the list for ultimate experience

IT MAY have given one of our humble towns a pasting earlier this year, but leading travel guide Lonely Planet has redeemed itself by selecting two of Kent's celebrated landmarks for its 'world's ultimate experience' list.

Canterbury Cathedral and Sissinghurst Castle Garden joined a host of other famous attractions, including Stonehenge in Wiltshire and the Tower of London, in the new guide to the 1,000 Ultimate Sights.

Listing everything from the world's most romantic views to the most bizarre monuments, the guide presents the unmissable spectacles the world has to offer.

In its pages are the 'Most Amazing Churches and Cathedrals' with Canterbury described as "top of the pops" among English cathedral cities, by the Lonely Planet authors.

It adds: "Non-believers may find themselves converted inside the extraordinary early-Gothic cathedral, filled with enthralling stories, striking architecture and a real and enduring sense of spirituality."

Further west in the county and



THE BEST: Canterbury Cathedral

the authors found Sissinghurst Castle Garden, in Cranbrook.

Admiring the "intimate spaces" and character, the guide heaps praise on the gardens and restaurant too: "The place is crammed with romantic features; an orchard, a rose garden, a nuttery, a moat."

Earlier this year, Lonely Planet gave a no-holds-barred description of Dover, calling it "down in the dumps". Tourism body Visit Kent defended the town, stating that most seaside towns in the UK had fallen on hard times.

Focusing on the positives of the guide, chief executive Sandra Matthews-Marsh said the coverage would help attract new visitors.

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News

TRAVEL

A21 improvements will mean overnight delays

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

MOTORISTS are being warned of disruption to the A21 as extensive improvements take place to the stretch which straddles the Kent and East Sussex border.

However, the Highways Agency says work, which will involve lane closures, temporary traffic lights and a temporary reduced speed limit, will take place overnight to avoid disrupting the busy road during peak times.

Starting on Monday, road markings will be replaced between the North Farm roundabout in Tunbridge Wells and the Tonbridge by-pass, as well as between Forstal Farm roundabout and Kippings Cross roundabout.

The stretch between the Hastings boundary and the Scotney Castle roundabout near Lamberhurst will also undergo treatment.

Resurfacing work will begin the following Monday between Cuckoo Lane and Perch Lane on the A21 Lambershurt Quarter, and between nearby Clay Hill Road and Kippings Cross roundabout.

In all cases, the work will be carried out on one carriageway at a time, with systems in place to enable traffic to flow past the works. There will be a 40mph speed limit with road users escorted past the work site at 10mph.

The roads will be closed between 8pm and 6am



DISRUPTION: Work to the A21 starts on Monday each week night. The work will be carried out in phases and is due to be completed by December.

Peter Scott, from the Highways Agency, said: "This work is part of our commitment for safe and reliable journeys along the A21. It has been carefully planned to minimise disruption and will be carried out overnight, when traffic flows are lowest."

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AVIATION

Public reject 'Boris Island' in UK survey

By **Marijke Cox**

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

BORIS Johnson's controversial plans for a floating airport in the Thames Estuary have been rejected by the public in a national survey commissioned by Medway Council.

More than three-quarters of 1,000 respondents said they did not believe an airport was needed off the north Kent coast, with 87 per cent stating that existing capacity, such as that at Manston in Thanet, should be used instead.

The ICM poll for Medway Council gathered public opinion on the London mayor's hopes of building a £70 billion airport on a man-made island in the Thames Estuary – dubbed Boris Island – to increase capacity in the South East.

The survey revealed widespread public opposition with almost nine out of 10 people instead backing the Government's current 'better not bigger' aviation policy, and 81 per cent arguing that £70bn was too much to spend on a new airport.

Medway Council leader Cllr Rodney Chambers, said: "It is a proposal that has already been dismissed by the airline industry and by the Government and this poll makes clear that no one at all sees it as a serious option.

"Boris needs to listen to public opinion, admit it is a pie in the sky idea and drop it for good."

Since unveiling his plan three years ago, Mr Johnson has published two reports into the feasibility and need for a Thames Estuary airport. The findings of a further study are due imminently.

A spokesman for Mr Johnson said if the City was to retain its position as the "heartbeat of global business" then a new hub airport was an "absolute necessity".

"There is no question a serious aviation bottleneck is emerging in London and the South East that has the potential to strangle our national economy," he said. "Several sites have been publicised as possible locations for a new hub airport, but the mayor's priority at this stage is to ensure government gives acknowledgement to the need for greater aviation capacity in the South East."

■ See www.yourmedway.co.uk for news.



PIE IN THE SKY: London's mayor Boris Johnson

HEALTH

Vulnerable warned to get your flu jab now

PEOPLE at risk of complications from flu have been urged to get their flu jab early.

Pregnant women, everyone aged over six months with serious health conditions, and people over 65 are being urged by the NHS to get themselves vaccinated in the next few weeks.

Flu clinics are already up and running at some GP practices in Kent. This year's jab protects against swine flu and two other strains.

CHARITY

Hospice's £750,000 anniversary appeal

A Kent charity has marked its 20th anniversary of helping terminally ill children and adults in Romania by launching an appeal to raise £750,000 to build two new hospices.

Hospices of Hope, based at Otford, has shops in Ashford, Maidstone, Rochester, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells. It has trained more than 12,000 doctors and nurses in Romania, Serbia, Albania and Moldova. See www.hospicesofhope.co.uk.



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NEW ANGLE: The modern setting of the Sunley Gallery, with the backdrop of yellow lines framing a circular window to the sea as part of Daniel Buren's work Borrowing and Multiplying the Landscape, offers a remarkable new way of looking at this iconic statue from another era



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ART

Contemporary unveiling for Rodin's historic kiss

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

ONE of the art world's most iconic works came to the Turner Contemporary gallery in Margate this week.

The Kiss by Auguste Rodin will be on display in the Sunley Gallery until September next year.

The sculpture, carved between 1901-04, is actually one of three made by the French artist in his lifetime.

It was commissioned by a wealthy American collector, Edward Perry Warren, who lived in Lewes, East Sussex. He could not purchase the original at the time because it was owned by the French government.

In 1914 the sculpture was loaned to Lewes Town Council and in 1955 it was purchased by the Tate Gallery for the nation. At the time the public fund raised amounted to £7,500.

Victoria Pomery, director of the Turner Contemporary Gallery said: "I have always been fascinated by this particular sculpture, having first seen it as a teenager."

"It is a key work. It has become one of those iconic images and it is very important for it to be part of our diverse programme here."

The sculpture has been placed in front of a work by French artist Daniel Buren framed by a backdrop of yellow lines, mirrors and the sea.

Ms Pomery said: "Taken out of the context of

London or Paris it looks very different here with the backdrop of the sea.

"This means we are looking freshly at a work that we all think we know well."

The Kiss was voted the public's favourite artwork in a poll in 2003.

It features the adulterous lovers Paolo Malatesta and Francesca da Rimini from Dante's Inferno. The couple develop affection for each other while reading the story of Lancelot and Guinevere. They are then killed by Francesca's jealous husband when he discovers them.

This is only the third time the work has been lent to a gallery outside London by the Tate.

Turner Contemporary is part of group of 18 galleries called Tate Plus. The members work together on exhibition and business planning.

Ms Pomery said: "This means we will get loans from the Tate on a regular basis. That includes some of our works which are currently on display as part of our second exhibition, Nothing in the World but Youth."

The life-sized statue has attracted controversy down the years. When it was on display in Lewes Town Hall in 1914 a headmistress successfully campaigned to have it draped with a cloth so it did not excite young soldiers billeted there.

Ms Pomery said: "In its time this work was incredibly challenging to society. It provoked a lot of criticism about the eroticism and the subject matter. We may not be so worried about those

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Pictures: PAUL JERREAT



sorts of things now but Rodin was like Turner – they were both challenging the art establishment of their time."

The Sunley Gallery where the sculpture has been placed has been created so larger pieces of work can be shown.

Since it opened in April the Turner Gallery has had more than 250,000 visitors.

Ms Pomery said: "This sculpture will help to drive forward the very exciting programme we have going into 2012. Many of those 250,000 visitors are new to the area so we are already seeing the effect we are having in the town.

"It is important we have iconic works like this here. We are a major national gallery after all."

■ See www.yourthanet.co.uk for more news.

TO INFINITY: Mirrors on either side of Daniel Buren's work reflect modern reproductions of The Kiss, emphasising its new place in the modern world

LIVE EXPORTS

Anger as protestors hijack arrival of The Kiss to stage exports demo

COUNCIL chiefs in Thanet have slammed a demonstration opposing live animal exports, outside the Turner Contemporary on Tuesday as it unveiled Rodin's The Kiss.

Protestors wanted to highlight concerns about live exports coming through the port of Ramsgate.

But Thanet District Council leader Cllr Bob Bayford said: "The council is concerned by the opportunistic protest and the impact it may have both on Turner Contemporary and businesses in the area.

"The fees charged for live animal exports are set to cover the costs incurred by the council. Our opposition to live exports has been made clear from the start. We are not happy about it and would prefer not to see Ramsgate being used for this purpose – we have no option but to remain strictly within the law."

The Kent Action against Live Ex-



ports protest featured banners and a pantomime cow in a cage, mooing distressingly at passers by.

In a statement the group said: "We are here to demonstrate our opposition to the export of live animals through Ramsgate Port. In particular we oppose Thanet council who run the port and who, despite claiming they oppose this evil trade continue to profit from it."

There have also been calls this week from the RSPCA to end the live animal trade.

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HEALTH CARE

Care home firm 'not like Southern Cross'

A CARE home operator responsible for almost 60 homes previously owned by health care provider Southern Cross has angrily denied accusations it too is in financial trouble.

Four Seasons Health Care, which runs five homes in Kent, says the GMB union is "substantially wrong" in claiming the firm is on the brink of collapse, and has blasted bosses for their "misleading and irresponsible" statement.

The GMB had warned residents taxpayers' money would have to be used to pay for their care in future because Four Seasons has debts of £750m and only £350m of assets. It claimed that as a result the company could be about to follow Southern Cross into administration.

However, Four Seasons says the £350m figure is a net asset which shows what remains after debts have been accounted for.

A spokesman said: "This could cause undue concern to residents and their families. Four Seasons is trading profitably with earnings of about £100m before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization."

"We own more than half of the facilities we operate and are therefore not so critically exposed to rents as Southern Cross was."

Southern Cross is currently in the process of offloading all 750 care homes in its portfolio following its financial collapse, with 57 being taken over by Four Seasons, including Copper Beeches in Rochester. The company also runs Ashurst Park in Fordcombe, near Tunbridge Wells; Beechcare in Darent, near Dartford; Birkin Lodge in Tunbridge Wells; and Sutton Valence Care Home near Maidstone.

RECYCLING

Cameron's Big Society 'all talk', says founder of community service

By Steve Knight

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THE founder of a cash-strapped community recycling firm has criticised the Government's Big Society initiative after his pleas for help were ignored.

Mark Wyatt, of Folkestone-based Kent Community Recycling, admits the not-for-profit organisation may go bust by the end of the month after losing 80 per cent of the funding it receives from Kent County Council.

A petition in support of the company has been signed by almost 1,000 people so far, but Mr Wyatt says Prime Minister David Cameron, his deputy Nick Clegg and Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles have all shown their true colours by failing to reply to his letters.

"The so-called Big Society is a bit of a sore point as far as I'm concerned," he said.

"I don't really like talking about it because I'm not a comedian.

"What's hurtful is that apart from (Folkestone and Hythe MP) Damian Collins, no other politicians have shown any interest in helping us.

"The public have always been fully behind the initiative, otherwise we wouldn't have kept go-

ing, but the politicians are not involving with us.

"The Big Society is all talk really. What the Government doesn't realise is community groups like us have been around doing good work for years.

"We just don't blather on about it."

Established in 1989, Kent Community Recycling educates people about the true value of the materials they purchase and to pump any surplus cash it makes from recycling into community projects and local charities.

The organisation, which recycles one million kilos of unwanted goods per year, runs its own 'resource recovery plant' in Hawkinge and had originally hoped to expand into Sevenoaks and Sarre, near Canterbury, before the financial troubles hit.

Mr Wyatt said KCC cut the majority of its funding – worth about £110,000 a year – after an audit found the firm was unwittingly going against Government rules which forbid the inclusion of materials sourced from educational establishments.

"If we were profit-making and suddenly lost such a large percentage of our income, we would have seen the position as terminal and closed down," he said.



HARD HIT: Kent Community Recycling may close

"But as a civic amenity we have avoided it because we are told constantly by those for whom we work that they need us.

"During the last 12 months we have worked hard to recover from the massive drop in income and have done very well, but we still have a shortfall in our cash flow and need help.

"We have some irons in the fire which give us hope for the future, but should they not commit to supporting us by October 28, then we will sadly have no option but to close down."

■ Visit www.kentcommunityrecycling.org.uk or call 01303 893772 for more information.


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COMPETITION

Win family tickets to the Leeds Castle fireworks



THIS fireworks night, Leeds Castle is the perfect setting to watch a magnificent display set to music and also enjoy a variety of entertainment in the grounds.

Bring the family on November 5-6 to watch spectacular fireworks set to space-themed music, which will include well known theme tunes from film and television.

New this year, the Leeds Castle fireworks will be let off from floating pontoons on the moat and create beautiful reflections in the water surrounding the historic castle.

Before the display, there will be an open-air screening of a space-themed film to entertain children, along with face-painting and fairground rides.

And jazz singer Adam Chandler and his band will provide entertainment for the adults.

For the more adventurous, there will be the opportunity to try zorbing in inflatable spheres.

Gates open at 2pm, with last admission at 5pm and fireworks start at approximately 5.30pm.

Supported by Heart FM, the Leeds Castle Fireworks Spectacular is the perfect backdrop

to your fireworks night. Tickets are £18 for adults, £10 for children under 16 and under 4s go free if reserved at the time of booking. Group rates are available for 15 people or more priced at £15 for adults and £9 for children.

All tickets must be booked in advance online at leeds-castle.com/events or by calling the Leeds Castle Box Office on 01622 880008.

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Key to the Castle tickets are not valid for this event.

Spectacular: Fireworks at Leeds Castle are a truly spectacular sight to see



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LITTER

Campaign to keep gum off our streets

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A MAJOR campaign to clampdown on people dropping chewing gum on the streets of Tunbridge Wells is under way.

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council has partnered with the Chewing Gum Action Group, an organisation chaired by Defra and funded by the chewing gum industry, to challenge consumer behaviour and support the group's annual drive to tackle the problem of gum litter in the UK.

An advertising campaign is in place around the town and neighbouring Southborough with signs on lamp-posts and phone boxes promoting an anti-gum litter message.

As part of the campaign a survey will be carried out during the first week of October to gather residents' views on the campaign so far and their attitudes to gum disposal.

Paul Barrington-King, sustainability portfolio holder on Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, said: "We welcome and encourage all of our residents and visitors to dispose

of their gum responsibly."

Local businesses have supported the event by distributing chewing gum wraps and pouches which can be used as a temporary store for gum and cigarette butts until a bin is available.

Tunbridge Wells Street Pas-

tors are also handing out the wraps to night-time visitors to the town when they are on patrol during the weekends.

UNSIGHTLY: A new advertising campaign aims to stop people dropping chewing gum on the streets



ENTERTAINMENT

Art lights up the forest

HARNESSING the latest sound and lighting technology, Bedgebury National Pinetum and Forest will once again be transformed this month.

After being a big hit last year, the Electric Forest will return to the woodland near Goudhurst to coincide with half-term, October 22-30, with a new night trail which leads walkers deep into the forest.

Organisers have ensured no light pollution from the visual

spectacular, so there will be no floodlighting into the sky.

Zoe Bottrell, director of organisers Culture Creative, said: "The Electric Forest offers an opportunity to do something different. We hope people will gather family and friends together, pop on some warm clothes, outdoor shoes and arm themselves with torches and come to experience an amazing night time adventure."

Tickets are on sale now.



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EDUCATION

Kate was former pupil of history-making Kent head

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

THE Duchess of Cambridge's former classics teacher has become the first female head in a Kent school's 262-year history.

Louise Moelwyn-Hughes, 40, taught the former Kate Middleton when the newest addition to the Royal family was just a teenager studying for her GCSEs at Marlborough College in Wiltshire.

But the new head of Canterbury's St Edmund's School, who was also Princess Eugenie's housemistress, had to make do with watching her most famous ex-pupil tie the knot on television like everyone else.

"They were both fabulous, very down-to-earth girls," said Mrs Moelwyn-Hughes.

"They were very lovely and bright, and I got on with them in the same way I got on with all my pupils."

"It never crossed my mind that one day Catherine would marry into royalty, which isn't to say I didn't think she was cut out for it. She was just a very straightforward girl getting on with her everyday school life."

"It was a bit strange watching someone I had taught get married on live television, but it was a wonderful day and I was obviously very happy for her."

A member of the exclusive Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference, St Edmund's School is an independent mixed day and boarding school for pupils aged three to 18.

About 18 per cent of the 200 girls and 350 boys at the school are boarders, with the remainder almost a 50-50 split of boys and girls.

"Sometimes parents stick to the stereotype that all boys misbehave and all girls are very studious, so a lot of parents would prefer to send their daughters to girl-only schools," said Mrs Moelwyn-Hughes.

"Therefore you tend to find the majority of pupils at mixed schools are boys. But that's not the case at St

Edmund's, which reflects the real world and makes for a very well-balanced atmosphere."

Before becoming the school's first-ever female headteacher, Mrs Moelwyn-Hughes was also the first female deputy head in Marlborough College's almost 400-year history.

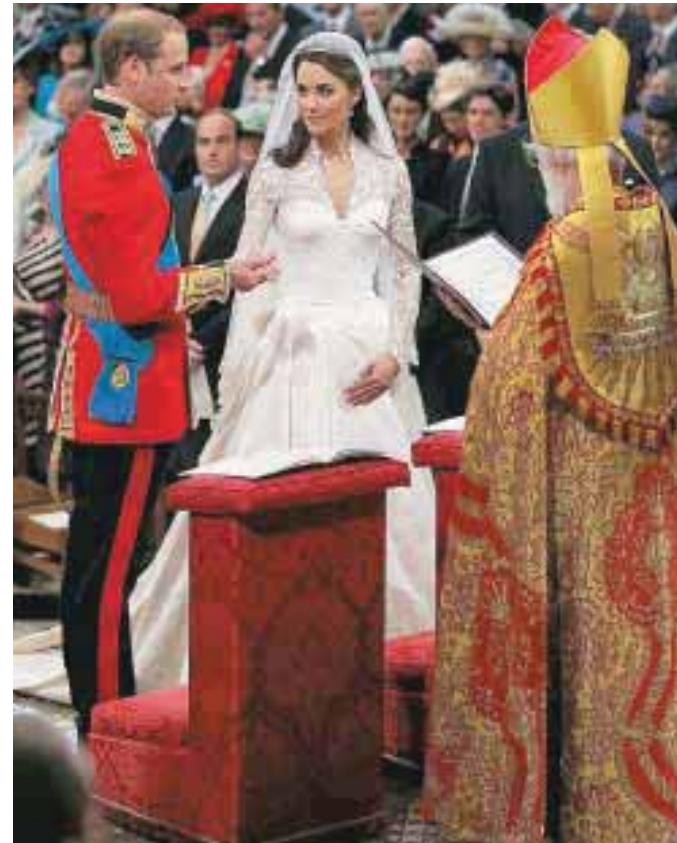
"It's a real privilege, but in this day and age you just accept it and get on with the job," she said.

"But the governors made it clear I earned the job on merit and that they weren't looking to break any barriers. They wanted the right person."

"I hope to bring a lot of energy and enthusiasm to

the role. I respect the history and tradition of St Edmund's and the school is well-known for its achievements in music and drama, but I'm keen to promote the academic aspects further."

■ For more news and sport see www.yourcanterbury.co.uk.



HAPPY DAY: Mrs Moelwyn-Hughes (left) watched former pupil Kate Middleton on TV

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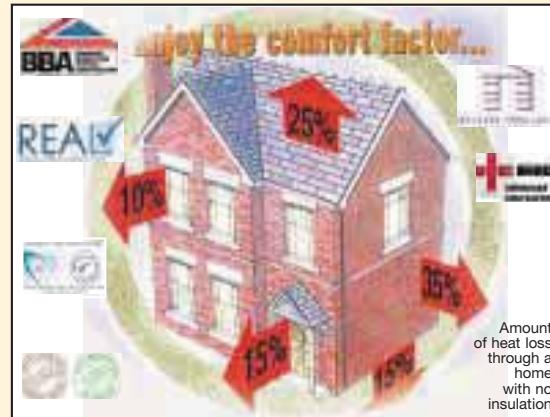
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*Income must be below £16,040

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News

BUSINESS

Welcome for 'credit easing' cash loans to county's small firms

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

BUSINESSES across the county have broadly welcomed news of a multi-billion pound programme designed to avoid a new credit crunch, announced by Chancellor George Osborne.

The new mechanism of 'credit easing' was unveiled at the Conservative Party conference amidst worries that bank lending could seize up in the wake of fears over the Eurozone.

Mr Osborne has put forward some previously untried means to attempt to get the economy moving.

Credit easing could see tens of billions of pounds made available to small and medium enterprises as they would be able to bypass the banks when it comes to loans.

Andrew Alves, development manager of the Kent and Medway Federation of Small Businesses said: "The credit easing measure could be a significant development that would open up a new finance stream to viable businesses.

"The FSB hope this scheme will be run through an arm's length organisation that has the procedures and processes already set up, such as UKFI (UK Financial Investments Ltd, a Government economic management body), so it can be implemented as soon as possible.

"With 30 per cent of businesses believing they missed their growth opportunity in the last year as a result of not getting finance from their bank, we look forward to working with Government to ensure it can benefit the very smallest of businesses that want to invest and grow."

The funding for credit easing will come from the Treasury, but details on how the scheme will operate are still at an early stage. It is most likely that small

Business Week Live



TRYING TO HELP:
Chancellor George Osborne has announced a credit easing scheme to enable small businesses to borrow money without having to battle with high street banks

business loans will be packaged together and guaranteed by the Government. These packaged securities could then be sold in the bond markets – similar to the corporate bond structure in place in the USA.

Experts believe the Bank of England will be tasked with running the programme – which is a way for the Treasury to inject credit more directly into small businesses, without relying on the banks.

By circumventing the banks, it's hoped rates of interest charged on loans will fall significantly, and better reflect the current rock-bottom Bank of England base rate.

Mr Alves also added a note of caution to his optimism.

"The Chancellor announced some welcome measures to help small businesses," he said.

"However, it is difficult to regard the Conservative Party as the party of small businesses only days after it introduced a raft of new and costly employment regulations which will hinder small firms' growth plans and burden them with yet more red tape.

"The FSB welcome steps to help inject money into small firms, but need to see more detail so look forward to working with the Government on this."

■ To find out more about how credit easing may be able to benefit your company, book your free place at Archant KOS Media's Business Week Live exhibition and conference on October 26 at Dover Cruise Centre. See the website at www.businessweeklive.co.uk for more information.

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COMPETITION

Win tickets to a show that rocks

HIGH School Rocks! is a high energy, foot stomping, totally interactive production featuring all the very best hits from High School Musical 1, 2, and 3, Hannah Montana, Camp Rock, and Glee.

The High School Musical phenomenon, together with Miley Cyrus from Hannah Montana – The Movie, the hugely successful film Camp Rock with The Jonas Brothers and the Glee Club, are all paid tribute to in this amazing show coming to the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, on Sunday, October 30, at 2.30pm.

Join the superb cast for a rollercoaster ride of fun, as they invite you to the ultimate party to celebrate all of these awesome teen sensations in one fantastic concert.

Don't forget your dancing shoes and be prepared to rock out as High School Rocks! arrives.

Two winners will each get a family ticket (for four people), and to be in with a chance of winning just answer this question:

On October 30, 2011, where will the show for High School Rocks! be held?

- A - Canterbury
- B - Tunbridge Wells
- C - Maidstone

To enter, text SCHOOL (space) answer, name and address and send to 64343. Texts cost £1 plus standard network rates.

Entries received after the closing date of October 13, 2011, will not be counted but you may still be charged.

Your number may be used by Archant KOS Media. If you do not wish to receive information

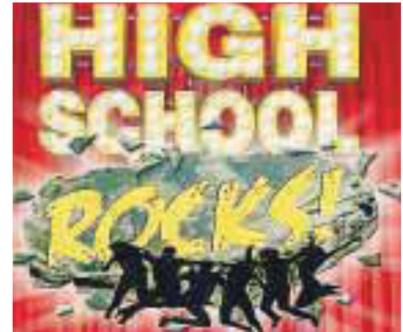
on any other products or services, please text EXIT at the end of your message.

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But if you don't win, don't worry you can still buy tickets from the box office on 01892 530613/532072 or go to the website at www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk for more details.



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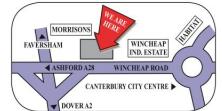


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News

ECONOMY

Campaigners keep up the pressure for a fuel duty cut

By **Marijke Cox**

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk



"In an economy that's not growing and inflation that's rising, this is the magic key. Reducing fuel duty will give people more money. It would be the medicine for the economy."

"But it's a bigger issue than just home costs; carers can't afford to get out and see patients; small businesses are laying people off; I've seen friends in the haulage industry go bankrupt."

The fuel duty petition is being backed by some leading economists who believe it could be the key to helping the economy.

Phil Thornton, of Clarity Economics, said: "Cutting fuel duty offers an easy to implement and fast acting way of providing that boost to growth."

Mr Carroll added: "I want to see signatures double or treble that 140,000 number in the next few weeks."

"People need to wake up and see that this is a serious issue."

■ **To sign the petition go to www.fairfueluk.com/index.html.**

■ **More news and sport at www.yourshepway.co.uk.**

THE WEDDING SHOW

Win a dream honeymoon when you attend the fantastic Wedding Show

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE Wedding Show which takes place at Leeds Castle next weekend, October 15-16, will truly be something to behold – and just the thing for a couple planning their big day.

Everything a bride and groom could ever want will be on display to ensure they can choose the dream dress, accessories and services which will provide a lifetime of amazing memories.

And there will be a selection of wonderful prizes to be won – including dream honeymoons – in a range of free to enter draws.

The event organised by Archant KOS Media offers four magical and inspirational catwalk shows on each of the two days with wondrous collections of exquisite bridal designs, couture ladies' fashions, lingerie and men's attire.

These displays, held in a luxurious grand marquee in the beautiful grounds of the ancient stately home, are co-ordinated and professionally choreographed by the team at Catwalkers who specialise in creating the "wow factor".

They will give visitors the opportunity to view the latest creations and meet with experts afterwards who will help chose the perfect outfit.

Leeds Castle – known as Castle of Queens: Queen of Castles – for its royal connections has also attracted the accolade 'the loveliest castle in the world'.

It is one of the most romantic buildings in Britain and the ideal place to showcase a dream wedding as swans glide on the moat, peacocks wander thorough the grounds and hot air balloons rise spectacularly over the stunning historic battlements.

Claire Sweeney, star of stage and screen, will be hosting the event.

She said: "I am delighted to be hosting The Wedding Show at Leeds Castle and look forward to



meeting you there."

The event will feature 120 stands offering everything a bride and groom need for their big day.

Prizes to be won include a honeymoon with Isibindi African lodges and Safari Sun staying at the Rhino Post Safari Lodge in South Africa's Kruger National Park and on the coast at Thonga Beach Lodge. A special feature will be a walking elephant safari for the winners.

There is also another romantic holiday to be won on the paradise playground of Mauritius, along with gym membership for a couple and their families, jewellery, suit hire, home protection and handmade stationery.

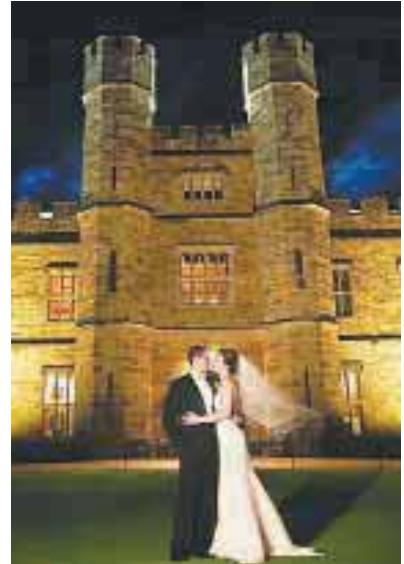
For the grooms there is a charity draw with the prize the chance to drive to their wedding in the famous DeLorean time travelling car – fresh from Hollywood where it was used to mark the 25th anniversary of the movie in which it starred, Back to the Future.

Entertainments at this most romantic of venues include harpists, a singer and band, a charity casino and for refreshment there is a Champagne bar along with the usual facilities.

■ See www.weddinglink.co.uk for details and to book tickets.



SPECIAL DAY: Claire Sweeney hosts the show, where grooms-to-be will be in with a chance of winning the iconic DeLorean as their wedding car



Picture: ALFIE & TRISH PHOTOGRAPHY

DREAM HONEYMOON: Among the prizes to be won at The Wedding Show at Leeds Castle, pictured left, are a honeymoon in Mauritius and a stay in South Africa which comes with an elephant walk.

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EXHIBITION

STRIKING:
Five artists have come together to create the Red List exhibition which will be on display at the Sidney Cooper Gallery in Canterbury



Artists go back to nature to get endangered message across

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

EYE-CATCHING images depicting man's relationship with the endangered world have gone on display in Canterbury.

The Red List exhibition, which runs at the Sidney Cooper Gallery until November 12, features the work of five artists including Ramsgate sculptor Stephen Melton and Margate

"dust artist" Paul Hazelton.

Among the works on display are Mr Melton's Bee Museum, which represents the disappearance of bees from around the world, and The Thornback Ray which highlights the issue of endangered fish being caught in local seas.

Sidney Cooper Gallery curator Hazel Stone said: "The Red List brings together five inspirational artists to create an exhibition which explores issues of invasion, extinction, threat and

ownership of nature. "We hope the artists' works will help inspire people to be considerate towards nature and more attentive to the impact humans can have on their environment and the animals within it."

A series of six prints from American photographer Richard Barnes' Animal Logic series are also on display at the exhibition, as well as two from Neeta Madahar's Sust-

nance collection.

Meanwhile, a film entitled Old Bird by Ben Rowley is also on display and observes a bird close to the end of its life in what has been described as a "moving and powerful" piece.

The artwork is accompanied by panels displaying research text from the Ecology Research Group at Canterbury Christ Church University's department of geography and life sciences.

■ Visit www.canterbury.ac.uk/sidney-cooper or call 01227 453267 for more information.

■ More news and sport at www.yourcanterbury.co.uk.



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CRIME

Rape victim just five when 11 years of abuse by 'sex predator' started

A PAEDOPHILE who raped and abused two children for more than a decade has been jailed for 13 years.

Lee Hewitt, 31, of Canada Road, Erith, was found guilty of nine of the 11 offences put before Maidstone Crown Court, including rape, indecent assault, indecency with a child, and sexual intercourse with a child under the age of 13.

During the two-and-a-half week trial, the jury heard how Hewitt regularly sexually abused two girls – one of whom was just five when the offences started – between 1993 and 2004.

Judge Philip Statman said: "This court saw both females give evidence and speak of what you had done to them in an extremely brave manner.

"One of these girls stated she had felt dirty and used."

Hewitt was found guilty of four counts of indecently assaulting a child, one count of indecency with a child, three counts of unlawful sexual intercourse with a child under



PREDATOR: Hewitt was jailed

the age of 13, and one count of rape.

A 10-year sexual prevention order was issued by the judge, and Hewitt will also be required to be on the sex offenders' register for life.

Det Con Anne-Marie McAteer, who carried out the investigation, said: "We welcome the significant sentence that has been handed down and which finally brings

this sexual predator to justice.

"Hewitt preyed on these children for more than a decade, repeatedly and regularly sexually abusing them without a thought for the harm and suffering he was causing.

"The success of this investigation would not have been possible without the sheer bravery of the victims and they should be commended for their courage in coming forward to report these crimes.

"Without their courage, this case would never have come to court.

"I hope the sentence imposed today will allow the victims to continue to rebuild their lives, safe in the knowledge that this man will remain in prison for some time.

"I also hope this sentencing will give past and present victims of these types of offences the confidence to come forward to report these crimes, knowing that those responsible will be brought to justice."

Art class starts soon

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FOLLOWING the success of our recent class we are now taking bookings for our Autumn course

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By the end of the course, students have created a minimum of eight pieces of their very own original art they can enjoy forever, from misty mountain tops to stunning seaside vistas.

EXHIBITION

The final day of the art class will be the preparation for an exhibition held in Tunbridge Wells Town Centre later that day, featuring the work created over the three-and-a-half month part-time course.

YOUNG AT HEART

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OPINION

Keeping the spirit of Britain alive

Having a credible plan to get the county through the current economic problems is vital, says **Michael Fallon**, Kent MP and deputy chairman of the Conservative Party

THIS week's Conservative Party conference was obviously dominated by the economy.

A broad, the crisis in the Eurozone gets worse and showed what happens when governments run out of money.

At home, there was strong support for the Coalition government's firm plan to sort out our public finances and get our economy growing again.

The Chancellor George Osborne emphasized that tackling our debts is essential for growth.

Having a credible plan to control public spending means interest rates will remain low, keeping families in homes, firms in business and people in jobs. But this is much more than good book-keeping; it provides a stable framework to promote economic growth.

Growth is a continuous agenda for this government. The Budget in the spring cut tax for business and cut red tape for small companies. In August,

the Chancellor announced new enterprise zones, including one in east Kent to help replace the jobs lost at Pfizer in Sandwich.

This week we heard about more support for science and manufacturing, neglected under Labour, more lending to small business, and measures to make employment easier.

Small firms in my constituency, for example, have long complained to me about employment tribunals: they are often afraid to take on more staff in case they have to pay to get rid of them or face expensive and time-consuming tribunals.

Now there will be a much longer qualifying period, and litigants will be charged a fee.

This isn't an attack on workers' rights – on the contrary, it will make it easier for companies to take on people who are currently locked out of the labour market.

There was no complacency in Manchester.

The huge deficit we inherited from Labour means we must maintain firm control of spending for many years to come.

We need to find jobs for thousands of young people who the last government failed to equip with the education and skills that modern employers need.

The benefit system needs radical overhaul to make it always more worthwhile to work rather than to claim. Public sector pensions need reform to become sustainable in the long-term.

Alongside these changes for the future there were announcements to give families practical help now.

Freezing the council tax for a second successive year from next April, for example, means one less bill that's going up.

Allowing social housing tenants to buy their homes helps them onto the housing ladder; the proceeds will go directly into building new housing, helping the construction industry.

Despite the crisis in Europe and the problems in banking, our conference ended on an optimistic note. Though there's a serious slowdown in the United States and across the Eurozone, the other half of the world economy is booming.

There are rapidly growing markets in China, India, the Far east and South America, all open for British goods and services.

There are huge opportunities for British companies.

Just before I went to Manchester, I visited a small firm in Sevenoaks that makes guitar strings. Rotosound sells them to 50 countries around the world, and business is booming. That's the spirit of Britain.

This week in Manchester showed a party and a government determined to foster it.

■ **Michael Fallon is MP for Sevenoaks and also deputy chairman of the Conservative Party.**

6699

**Freezing
council
tax for a
second
year
means
one less
bill that's
going up**

KOS COMMENT

Big Society needs to show us the money

PRIME Minister David Cameron may still be pushing the Big Society, but it is in danger of seeming to be all talk, especially in the case of Kent Community Recycling, which faces imminent closure due to funding cuts.

So, let's get this straight – Government is promoting Big Society, but taking away funding from community groups who have been carrying out Big Society work for years, leaving them to close down?

The Big Society may sound like a nice idea, but unless it supports community groups at grassroots it's just as much as pie in the sky as Boris Johnson's floating airport.

Dilley will always be a Kentish cricket star

KENT has been mourning the loss of home-grown cricket great Graham Dilley this week.

Tributes poured in reminiscing over his inspirational Ashes performance. He may have signed for Worcestershire all those years ago, but he will always be remembered as a great Kentish star.

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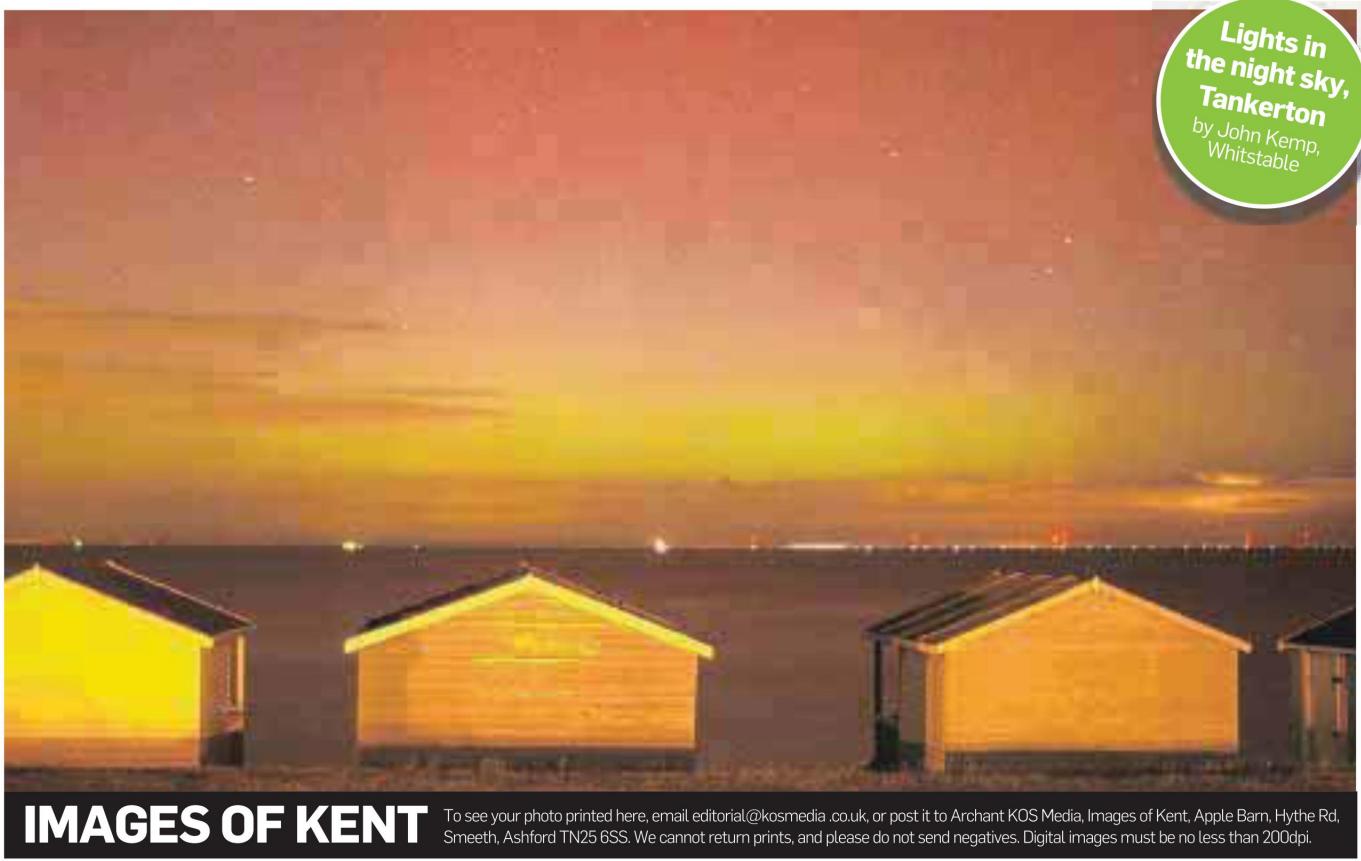
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**Lights in
the night sky,
Tankerton**
by John Kemp,
Whitstable

Big bad wolf after the pigs

THE new planning reform proposed by the Conservative Government on brownfield sites will still have to overcome local councillors, planning officers, and government inspectors who have as much planning expertise and foresight as the three little pigs had.

The developer being the big bad wolf.

Real democracy in planning will only come from reform of the planning application process, that is the real task.

I see nothing changing for the small developer or self-build owner as yet in the Government proposals to build where 'they' live, without neighbour objections.

In Kent we first have to run the gauntlet of planning officers, who are at most fixed by restraints of a personal bias on look, environmentally friendliness, or how it will fit into an area, without 'real' architectural knowledge.

That opinion shifts like the house of straw, it gets blown away by any wind of disapproval from the councillors or team officers who constantly contradict their colleagues.

You can go to appeal for a government inspector to decide, he/she will be drafted in (at huge expense) from outside, they will know nothing about the community and will make a decision (after about 30 minutes) based upon their perception about what is best.

This process is like a house of sticks, broken away by the inspector who simply charges through the process, in haste to return to his 'old' thatched home in the country.

You then have a right to appeal, but the Court of Appeal will simply return your appeal to the government inspector for them to look again at the application, they may or may not change their mind.

In the meantime the poor little pigs have no where to live and have been gobbled up by the big bad wolf, who goes into the countryside to look for little red riding hood (parish council) in a greenfield site.

Big bad wolf arms himself with a solicitor and QC, and trots off to make an appeal to the secretary of state based upon 'sustainability', the National Trust know what happens next.

Kenneth Little, Whitstable

IMAGES OF KENT

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Predators are ones to blame

LAST week's article regarding the sudden drop of wild bird species is probably due to the huge increase in predators.

Small birds such as willow tits are heavily predated by members of the hawk family. Sparrowhawks will take up to three of these little birds daily, so its not surprising they have suffered a drop in numbers.

Magpies and carrion crows also take huge numbers in the nesting season, together with grey squirrels. Ground nesting birds like lapwings, grey partridge, and skylarks suffer greatly at the predations by foxes, stoats and badgers.

These natural predators have taken many years to gain the numbers they are, due to the reduction of the shooting estates where they were kept in balance by gamekeepers.

It would be interesting to check what the population of the wild birds was prior to the invention of the breech-loading shotgun, when the great sporting estates came to the fore and these so-called

pests were brought to the brink of extinction.

I am sure that in time things will balance out, but do not expect to see these birds recover to any great numbers any time soon.

In my opinion it has nothing to do with habitat as there are thousands of acres of unfarmed land on the mainly undisturbed motorway verges and rail lines all over the UK.

Ken Smith, Rainham

Too many on a small island

NIGEL Farage was partly correct in blaming immigration as feeding demand for housing (KoS, September 25). Last year 241,000 people were granted settlement in the UK, which allows them to bring existing spouses, children and dependants into this country.

According to Home Office figures for 2009, 67 per cent of immigrants who come here on a marriage visa have never before set foot in this country. Also, one in three were living with family members or friends and not supporting themselves financially.

Britain's population rise is double the average of other EU countries, which is also underpinned by the much higher birth rate among immigrants.

This has nothing to do with racism, it is about land mass, we are a small island with a population of 60 million-plus and rising fast. When do we say no? Seventy million? Eighty million?

We are witnessing opposition to new housing estates, development pressure on land and congestion everywhere we go, unless we make real efforts to control our population, what sort of environmental inheritance are we going to pass onto our children?

**Terry Hudson
Herne Bay**

Cameron has ruined Tories

DAVID Cameron, in his pig-headed way, is slowly but surely destroying the Conservative Party. With his string of broken promises and deference to Nick Clegg he is, once again, proving he is the wrong choice as leader.

He is determined to ignore the very people who put him

in power and, as the polls keep showing, the other party of abject losers are well ahead of the Conservatives and that can only get worse with Mr Cameron in charge.

I see William Hague is the poll choice to step in and the sooner he does the better. We need a man of his proven stature to take control.

With four million people having to have food handouts now and Cameron sending billions out of our pockets to fund who knows what in other countries he is an absolute disgrace and his own party, if they want the backing of the people, should get rid of him and remind Nick Clegg just what his powers are.

RE Tucker, Sheerness

Repeal Human Rights Act

IT has just been reported that several terrorists have been released and cannot be deported because of the Human Rights Act, this coupled with the many more absurd incidents where evil people are using this act to further their ends, must make every British

subject worry about safety.

Many people in Swale work or socialise in London, where most terrorist acts occur, that is why this is a local issue.

David Cameron promised to get rid of the Human Rights Act and because of commitment to the Lib Dems he has reneged, like he did on most of the things. Yet not one of the parties are bringing this question up at their annual conferences, why?

People like me have been warning about mass immigration and have been called racist, last week the Labour Party admitted their immigration policy was wrong and it had led to a drop in our living standards and loss of jobs for British workers. David Cameron and Nick Clegg both promised to drop immigration numbers but immigration has increased, why?

I am happy with our MP and council but this Coalition surpasses the last government for broken promises. Maybe it is about time they started worrying about the people of Sittingbourne then putting all their energies in saving the world and their reputations.

Martin Clarke, Sittingbourne

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ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

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Printed: Archant Print



Law on renting and capital gains tax

Q FOR several years I rented out part of my home. I retired last year at the age of 70, and now the whole property is used only as my family home. I hope to remain here for as long as possible. However, when I do decide to sell, I am unclear about possible capital gains tax liability, so any advice would be appreciated.

A THE basic rule is that we are all allowed exemption from capital gains tax if we make a profit when we sell our main or only private residence. What complicates things a little is that for a number of years, part of your home has not been your residence. It has been rented out to provide a bit of income. Strictly speaking, this means that if you do sell your home at a profit, part of the gain will be taxable and part will be exempt. Working out the exact figures can be tricky. There may be an escape route though. There is a separate tax allowance called 'Letting Relief' that can be claimed by anyone who – like you – has rented out part of their own home. And this allowance might even wipe out your entire tax bill. You can claim the lowest of either £40,000, or the private residence exemption, or the amount of the gain that applies to the part of your home that was rented out. For example, let's suppose that you lived in three-quarters of the house and rented out the other quarter. And let's suppose that when you sell up, you make a profit of £100,000. You would be entitled to private residence exemption on three quarters of the gain. That leaves one quarter – £25,000 – to be taxed. And this would escape tax under the Letting Relief rule. On the other hand, suppose you made a profit of £200,000. Of this, £150,000 would be exempt, leaving £50,000. Letting Relief would be £40,000, leaving just £10,000 taxable. However, if you made no other gains in that year, this would escape tax as well, because a separate rule says we are allowed to make £10,600 of tax-free gains each year. Of course, the arithmetic would also be affected by the number of years the property was partly rented out, set against the time that you have been using it only as your private home, so keep records of the dates the house has been partly let.

Q THE Yorkshire Building Society is offering around 3pc on its decent savings accounts, but I have read that it is paying more than 7pc to its shareholders. How can this be fair?

A SAVERS and shareholders are very different. The biggest difference is that if you put anything up to £85,000 in a savings account, you are fully protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. In the unlikely event of serious problems at the Yorkshire, your money is safe. Shareholders, on the

TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC



other hand, are not covered by the compensation scheme unless, perhaps, they can prove they were negligently advised by a stockbroker or financial adviser who has gone bust. The Yorkshire shares that yield more than 7pc are called Permanent Interest Bearing Shares (Pibs). They work like IOUs, except that they are traded on the stock market and the price rises or falls just like any other stock market investment. Yorkshire Pibs are at the safer end of the market. So are those from the Principality Building Society, that yield over 9pc. But do be aware the stock market is never totally risk free. Some Pibs investors with Northern Rock lost over a third of their investment when it collapsed.

Q Please could you explain how airport duty tax is worked out. I read that it costs a family of four £240 to fly to the USA. My wife and I flew there in June and it cost us £480.

A The official name for this tax is Air Passenger Duty, and the amount you pay is based on the distance you fly, and which class you travel. Destinations fall into four different bands, with short haul flights covering anything up to 2,000 miles, then each band rises by 2,000 miles until you reach the top band, for flights over 6,000 miles. Tax starts at £24 for the first band, then £120, then £150, and finally £170. These rates are halved if you travel economy class. If you travelled economy class to the USA, tax should be £120 per person. If you were charged more, the airline owes you an explanation.

Q PLEASE can you tell me whether the email I have received, awarding me US \$3million from Coca Cola, is safe – or is it junk?

A IT IS junk. The message says you won \$3m in a free draw sponsored by Coca Cola and held at the FIFA World Cup finals in South Africa. Well, that was in 2010, so why the delay. The truth is that there was no such free draw. You are asked to call a number in South Africa to claim your prize. If you do, you will be asked for ever increasing sums of money, supposedly for taxes and legal fees, but you will never see anything in return.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.

Many not planning well for old age

By Ed Foss
MyMoney 24 writer

THE barrage of evidence that people are failing to plan adequately for their retirement continued this week with statistics showing how many people rejected the 'free money' offered to them through company pensions.

Around a quarter of people working for companies providing pensions simply don't take them up, mainly because they feel they cannot afford the payments. But it means they miss out completely on the company's contributions to their pension pot.

There is also a smaller, but troubling, problem of lack of awareness that schemes even exist or employees not even knowing whether or not they're enrolled.

Of those who don't join their company scheme, half say they can't afford to lose a chunk of their income; a quarter think retirement is too far away to worry about; and 22pc have made the decision to invest in something else.

But more than half of those who don't enrol believe the state pension

automatically join company schemes unless they choose to opt out, is due to come in next year.

Mr Foster added: "That will help to some extent. But people should place a high priority on saving for the future, to ensure they don't end up in poverty in retirement."

Karen Barrett, chief executive of unbiased.co.uk, said: "The current economic outlook is uncertain and there are some real financial concerns for consumers right now."

"The real issue though is the fact that people are still apathetic about their finances despite this."

"Savings and pension concerns aren't going to go away so it's important that people take control of their finances now and seek advice on the best way of saving for the future, to make sure they have that financial buffer in place for retirement."

"Worrying won't sort out your finances, but seeking professional advice from an independent financial adviser can and will help to reduce those concerns."

Unseasonably hot weekend causes the busiest day of year at cashpoints

THE recent end-of-summer warm weather has broken more than temperature records, prompting the busiest day of the year so far for withdrawals from a leading cash machine network.

The Link network reported that £577 million was taken out of its machines on September 30, the Friday before last weekend.

The volume of use was put down to people getting ready for the hot weekend.

John Howells, Link chief executive, said: "The good weather really seems to have encouraged people to withdraw cash in preparation for increased spending over an unusually sunny weekend."

"This is confirmation that the right combination of feel-good factors can boost short-term spending and that cash is a very popular way of paying for these kinds of goods and services."

The £577m withdrawn was the highest daily total since Christmas Eve 2010 and 14pc higher than the equivalent day in 2010.

Last Sunday was also very busy with £252m withdrawn, an 11pc increase on the same day in 2010.



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Asset-based lending not used to its full advantage by UK's struggling SMEs

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE county's small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are failing to take advantage of available funding despite a significant lending gap, which the Centre for Economics and Business Research (Cebr) estimates at £28 billion, says a report by Centric Commercial Finance.

It states that asset-based lending (ABL) including invoice discounting could lead to an increase between £531.6 million and £1.4bn to the UK's GDP by the end of 2012 by funding SME investment.

In the South East, it is estimated more than 105,000 businesses could qualify for this form of alternative finance.

The report suggests that, across the UK, as many as 65,000 firms are in sectors that can be considered suitable for commercial finance, a term that covers ABL including invoice discounting.

This type of finance allows companies to draw money against assets such as trade receivables, stock and machinery.

The 650,000 firms account for an estimated £8.8bn of the UK's SME lending gap.

However, the trade body for the ABL sector, the Asset Based Finance Association (ABFA) states that its members are servicing a small fraction of potential clients – just over 41,000 SMEs.

One local example shows what can be achieved, according to analysts involved in the report.

Centric recently structured a £4.5m deal for AEI Compounds Ltd, a leading manufacturer of polymer compounds and a global supplier to the wire and cable industry based in Sandwich.

With its principal markets in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa, a carefully-timed acquisition has resulted in the first global manufacturing and product development platform in this industry.

John Onslow, CEO and co-founder of Centric, said: "The last Credit Conditions Survey from the Bank of England showed an enormous disparity between

the demand for funding from small enterprises in particular, and what level of finance is realistically available to them.

"Our report shows a significant chunk of the SME population has not yet opted to use ABL, which might be suitable and could improve their situation if this option is explored.

"We recently took on a tractor-tyre-manufacturer that lost its bank's funding due to it being reclassified as an automotive supplier – a sector the bank had decided was a credit risk.

"After a seven-year relationship, the business was simply dismissed. This 'template' approach just doesn't make sense to us and it leaves many clients completely bewildered.

"ABL is well placed to respond to greater demand from SMEs, and while the banks remain cautious our industry will continue to do so."

Charles Davis, managing economist at the Cebr, said: "If ABL is going to fill the gap, more SMEs need to understand



WORDS OF WISDOM: John Onslow, of commercial finance company Centric

how this form of finance works and why it is a viable option.

"Awareness is a barrier, but our research clearly shows that alternative forms of finance have an important role to play in the economy.

"SMEs account for 51 per cent of the UK's economic output and 59 per cent of employment in the private sector – their financing needs are crucial to the UK's economic recovery."

LEGAL

Law firm expands its business into Kent

SOUTH East law firm Rix & Kay Solicitors LLP has announced the opening of a new office in Sevenoaks to add to its three in Sussex.

The company says the move will enable it to offer a greater range of services and a greater degree of specialisation to customers.

Bruce Hayter, managing partner, said: "We are broadening our network so we are better positioned to meet the needs of our clients across the South East. Having researched the market, and in response to the needs of our clients, we know we can deliver a more bespoke service by being based in the region."

Initially, the Sevenoaks office will concentrate on providing legal services to the company's private clients, focusing on wills, tax-planning, trusts, family law, conveyancing and court-of-protection work.

However, this will eventually be expanded on over time. The firm will look carefully at growing the office to cover other disciplines to enhance its offering to clients.

HEALTHCARE

Company gets smokefree award for helping staff to kick the habit

AXA PPP healthcare in Tunbridge Wells has become the first business to receive the Smokefree Kent Business Award.

The award, funded by Kent County Council in partnership with Kent Community Health NHS Trust's Stop Smoking service, recognises companies that have demonstrated their commitment to supporting staff who want to try to quit smoking.

In return, the company has been given a free financial assessment of what smoking could be costing its organisation and a review of its existing smoking policy with recommendations for improvement and fast-track

links to the stop smoking service.

The West Kent Stop Smoking Service has previously worked with AXA PPP healthcare and run a number of successful workplace programmes, delivered in-house. The programmes have had a success rate of 66 per cent, with a total of 39 employees quitting smoking as a result.

Spokesman Riley Elgar said: "By quitting smoking, these individuals will have made a significant improvement to their health and it is estimated that they have saved the company more than £8,000 per year if they continue not to smoke."

CONSULTANCY

Locate partners up to boost French market

INVESTMENT promotion agency Locate in Kent has boosted its French connection after joining forces with specialist consultancy O2S.

David Deslandes, director at O2S, will act on behalf of the agency from his base in France, identifying French businesses looking to expand into Kent to access the UK market.

Two French firms have recently expanded into the county, both taking up space at the Nucleus Business & Innovation Centre, Dartford.

Axon Onduleurs PV, a company that sells and distributes inverters and solar panels, and Paris-based electrical engineering consultancy Faseo opened their Kent offices this summer.

Sir Brandon Gough, chairman of Locate in Kent, said: "We are delighted to be working with O2S and David Deslandes. This partnership will ensure Kent's many business opportunities that were recognised by both Axon Onduleurs and Faseo are promoted to companies right across France. This will further increase our ability to draw foreign direct investment into the county."

■ HAVE YOU GOT A BUSINESS STORY? Telephone editorial on 01303 817181 or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

ACCOUNTANCY



Great customer feedback puts firm in line for award

McBRIDES chartered accountants, based in Sidcup, have been short-listed for a national award reflecting excellence in practice management and client satisfaction in the field of accountancy.

The AccountingWEB Practice Excellence Awards allow accountancy firms to be benchmarked against their competitors and to be judged by three distinct groups: their clients, an expert panel and specialists in their profession. The awards are open to all UK accountants who feel their approach to client satisfaction and practice management are worthy of merit.

AccountingWEB quizzed hundreds of McBrides clients and, on the back of their answers, short-listed the practice among its final eight contenders in the mid-sized accountancy firm category.

Managing partner Nick Paterno, above, said: "We were hoping for positive feedback, but were never complacent. It is pleasing our clients are delighted enough with our work to have propelled us into the next round."

McBrides, which has been involved in the business community in Kent and south London for 35 years, now has to complete a detailed questionnaire for the next round of judging. The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in London in November.

SALES

Success recognised with award of new franchise

TC Motorhome & Caravan Centre, based in Herne Bay, has just been awarded a franchise by the Bristol-based Bailey Group to market its products.

The Kent company will soon be displaying a range of Bailey Motorhomes at the company's premises in Sweechbridge Road, just outside Herne Bay.

The new products will be built using the Alu-Tech Construction system used in Bailey's existing range of touring caravans.

TC Motorhomes already has franchises such as Caravans-International, Swift, Eldiss and Globecar.

Tony Chamberlain, from the company, said: "I am pleased our success is being recognised by some of the biggest names in the industry."

"The success of the team in Herne Bay is in a large measure down to its collective focus on delivering customer satisfaction, along with quality products, whether new or used, and value for money."

'Open-market option' is a must for pension pots

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE Government must move quickly to make it obligatory for pension firms to inform customers that they can shop around for the best deal when it comes to turning their pension pot into an annuity – the so-called 'income for life' – according to a financial expert.

Ruth Dolan, a chartered financial planner with Canterbury law firm Furley Page, said: "In the past, insurers, who manage the majority of pension schemes, have not been obliged to tell their customers that they have an 'open-market option'. This is where customers can find the best-value provider for their lifetime income themselves, rather than taking a default option from their pension-provider."

"It is tragic to see people who have saved into a personal-pension scheme for years fail to make the most of their pension pot."

"It is difficult to believe, but most people will take the annuity offered by the pension-provider without further investigation."

Furley Page is urging the Government to introduce new rules to make pension firms inform customers that they can shop around for an annuity, and Dolan said she welcomed recent signs that regulators were moving in this direction.

One major insurance company has recently broken ranks with the rest of the industry to urge ministers to make changes to ensure that today's retirees get the best possible deals in the market.

The company, Aviva, has thrown its weight behind the open-market option, claiming that the typical person could boost their retirement income by between 10 and 20 per cent by shopping around.

According to Aviva, 385,000 people bought annuities last year, and only 32 per cent of these purchased annuities from a different company than the one they had saved with.

Dolan said: "You should not feel loyalty to your pension-provider unless you have shopped around and they are still offering you the very best annuity deal in the market which is right for your own personal circumstances."

Annuities involve using a pension pot to buy an income for life.

There are different types of annuity offering a



CHOICE: Most people will take the annuity offered by their pension-provider without shopping around

number of income options. The annuity-provider will need to assess what they are prepared to pay you in terms of income, and this is based on a number of factors including age, health and prevailing interest rates.

Dolan said: "Generally, the annuity figures provided by your pension-provider when you retire are standard rates for a person of your age and do not take into account your health or any of the various options that you may need. These rates are invariably uncompetitive."

"The first thing you should do when you receive one of these letters is to contact an independent financial adviser."

"They will be able to guide you through the options available with annuities and then look across the annuity industry for the best rate."

"A full health questionnaire should be completed to ensure that any quote is personalised for you and this could have positive results for your final pension. It is always interesting to see the difference between the final annuity and the original quote individuals receive from their pension-providers."

"Of course, you have to pay for the advice you receive, but even taking into account the fees, you should still receive a higher income than that initially quoted by your pension provider."



LEADING LIGHT: Kevin Kneebone named in global-director category

Kent director highly commended in final of IoD's international category

A KENT businessman has been highly commended in the 2011 Institute of Directors director-of-the-year awards, sponsored by Samsung Electronics.

Kevin Kneebone, managing director of Medway-based BACTEC, was named in the global-director-of-the-year category, supported by Conqueror, having previously won the award for director of the year for a business with a turnover of £5 million–£24.99 million in the IoD London and the South director-of-the-year awards.

With a background in engineering, Kneebone joined BACTEC International in 2003.

The company specialises in unexploded ordnance and landmine clearance around the world.

He has helped move BACTEC from a typical owner-managed business to a more formal company run by a board of directors.

Mr Kneebone said: "I was delighted to have been nominated for the international director category and being the winner in the regional finals."

"While I am disappointed not to

win the national award, testament to the high quality of the other finalists, being highly commended is very satisfying and is a reflection not only of my personal success but that of BACTEC and the whole team."

Rodger Broad, director of the IoD for London and the South, said: "Kevin fully deserves his recognition in the national awards."

"He is one of many highly-talented and committed directors around the region who are working hard to drive their companies forward in difficult times."

Business hub creates perfect environment for firms to flourish

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE Joiners Shop, a Basepoint-run business development in the Historic Dockyard Chatham, is celebrating a successful two years of operation – with all of its 44 units now occupied.

Following restoration, the 200-year-old, Grade II-listed building opened in March 2009 as a specialist centre for creative industries.

The centre is now home to 44 thriving creative businesses, ranging from graphic designers and specialist printers to a railway simulator company.

Basepoint Business Centres manages The Joiners Shop and attributes its success to the strong sense of community and creative flair which exists within it.

John Luchford, centre manager, said: "It's not surprising we have attracted so many creative businesses as the setting here provides a stimulating backdrop for these types of businesses."

"There has been plenty of demand for space and it is good to see so many

of our tenants doing extremely well."

One company prospering is Railsimulator.com, which employs 25 people and recently appeared in the top five downloaded computer games.

Railsimulator.com is the most realistic train and railway simulator on the market, allowing players to take the (virtual) controls of 13 historic and contemporary locomotives along eight lines in the UK, Europe and North America.

Paul Jackson, Railsimulator.com game producer, said: "Since we moved here two years ago, our company has expanded. As a result, we have needed larger premises on three occasions and the Basepoint team have been incredibly flexible in assisting us."

"As far as facilities and location are concerned, the centre fits all our requirements, providing the right environment for the creativity needed in our industry."

The Joiners Shop is set in the heart of the historic dockyard, providing 1,200 sq m of commercial accommodation, focusing on the needs of small and start-up businesses.



MOVING FORWARD: Paul Jackson, from Railsimulator.com, with John Luchford, centre manager for The Joiners Shop



TIGHT UNIT: Management from award-winning GML Construction

Regional prize shows construction company's building big reputation

KENT Megagrowth 50 company GML Construction has taken the Small and Medium Enterprises Award in the London and South East Constructing Excellence Awards 2011.

As a regional winner, the company will go forward to the National Constructing Excellence Awards, to take place on Friday, November 25.

Open to small to medium-sized construction companies employing 50 or fewer people, the judges were looking for signs of people development, adopting best practice and/or collaborative and new ways of working.

GML, based in Coxe Heath, has grown at an average of 20 per cent every year since 1991, going from a £300,000 turnover in its first year to £10 million in 2010, and has been recognised as one of the top 50 fastest-growing companies in Kent.

On behalf of Constructing Excellence, Derek Rees, chief executive of the South East Centre for the Built Environment (SECBE), who managed the awards congratulated GML.

He said: "We all know the construction and built-environment sector depends on small to medium-sized companies for the successful delivery of every construction project. GML shows just how effective a smaller company can be in delivering enlightened leadership and real good practice."

"This is marvellous news for us and a wonderful reward for our team, which works incredibly hard in whatever they do," said Alan Proto, of GML Construction.

GML Construction specialises in the delivery of energy-efficient buildings.

Using a variety of build methods including brick-and-block, timber frame, steel frame and modular construction, the company works with clients to provide a solution that meets their precise requirements and budgets.

Working throughout the South East, the company has built relationships with many local authorities as well as commercial developers and clients, and works in sectors including education, health, leisure and commercial.

TRANSPORT

Nomination is just the ticket for bus company

A BUS company is celebrating being short-listed in a category of the 2011 UK Bus Awards.

Stagecoach East Kent is in the final line-up of the Marketing Excellence Awards for the Canterbury Triangle.

The winner will be announced at an awards ceremony to be held at London's Hilton Hotel on Tuesday, November 29.

UK Bus Awards chairman John Owen said: "In these difficult and uncertain times we've been both surprised and delighted by the number and quality of entries for the 2011 UK Bus Awards."

"The combination of rising fuel prices and cuts in public spending are making life particularly difficult for everybody involved in bus-service provision at the moment."

"Even so, our judges were really impressed by the commitment to quality and innovation shown by bus-operators, local authorities and their partners in this, the awards' 16th year."

"More than five billion passenger journeys are made by bus every year, and the industry has a huge amount to offer in delivering reduced congestion and carbon emissions."

"The finalists in this year's awards are contributing hugely with their bright ideas and their commitment to customer service."

"They are paving the way for the future success of an industry which remains firmly at the heart of our national life."

Keep Kent Working!

It's jobs for Kent

Turbine bosses in jobs promise

BUSINESS leaders from across Swale attended a meeting with the wind turbine manufacturer planning to open a huge new factory on the Isle of Sheppey.

The gathering at the Sheppey campus of Canterbury College included speeches by Vestas Wind Systems' chief project manager Lars Gjedsoe Eriksen, and Peel Ports' managing director Paul Kavanagh.

They explained that the proposed turbine blade factory could create 2,000 jobs and regenerate up to two-thirds of the Port of Sheerness.

Sheppey campus head Philip Wicker said: "It's potentially a huge shot in the arm for the local community. The Sheppey campus team would be dedicated to working in any way they can to support such a significant project."

"In the long term we hope development will increase the opportunity for use of the college, for those taking both apprenticeships and other studies. Employers can use the college facilities, work with the college team and develop new ideas with our stakeholders."

EU cash boost for rural employment

ACTION with Communities in Rural Kent has won European funding for a project which will help young people find work.

The Greener Futures for Young People scheme, which works with partners from Sweden, France and Spain, is one of only 10 to receive the cash from DG Employment.

A spokesman said: "This project speaks out for the role of the not-for-profit sector and shows how the social economy can provide effective local responses to national problems of social exclusion and unemployment.

"This is a 'David and Goliath' story which demonstrates the strength of partnerships. We will also be joined on October 19 by specialist workers from the Czech Republic, Romania and other parts of Europe which are also part of the Rural Kent network."

The project, which lasts for one year and will receive about £205,000 funding, will test new ways of working with excluded and disadvantaged young people across the county. It will be officially launched in Ashford on October 19.

Sustainability is key at new training base

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

LOCAL businesses have been urged to take advantage of a new £6.9 million training and research centre for sustainable construction projects.

The SusCon building at The Bridge development in Dartford aims to capitalise on the Government's 'Green Deal', which will enable private firms to offer energy efficiency improvements to homes and properties at no up-front cost, and to recoup payments through a charge in instalments on the energy bill.

Subjects taught at the new centre include water conservation, bio-diversity, the supply chain and behaviour management. Its courses are also cross-disciplinary, meaning members of different building trades such as bricklayers and roofers can train together to encourage a sharing of ideas.

Dartford council leader Jeremy Kite, who attended the launch, said: "I'm absolutely delighted Dartford will play such an important part in the construction of ecologically sound and sustainable buildings."

"SusCon Dartford could become a centre for the very best practices in what will surely be the most important development in house-building we've ever seen. In a time of rising energy prices, the ability of people to minimise the cost of running their own homes has never been more important, and SusCon will lead the way in helping them to do this."

More than 100 people attended the launch of the building last week, which has been developed by a partnership led by Dartford council, North West Kent College and ProLogis. The development was made possible by funding from the Homes and Communities

Agency, the South East England Development Agency (Seeda) and the Skills Funding Agency via CTB-ConstructionSkills.

The partnership hopes to equip up to 2,500 professionals a year with the sustainable building skills required.

Brian Berry, director of external affairs at the Federation of Master Builders, added: "We are on the verge of a green revolution in terms of how we build, manage and value our buildings today."

"The Government's forthcoming Green Deal retrofit initiative has the potential to provide a much-needed boost to the construction industry because 26 million homes will need to be retrofitted by 2050, which amounts to 600,000 retrofits every year or about 5.5 every single minute."

"SusCon puts us on the road to recovery for the construction industry because green construction skills are the future."

Jamie White, head of the National Skills Academy for Construction and Commercial Strategy, added: "SusCon is a regional hub for the academy, allowing training at all levels to be delivered on a local basis."

"We ensure training focuses on delivering the skills required as and when they are needed, as well as providing training for people in the local community.

"We will help to ensure the right skills are in place so SMEs are ready for the Green Deal."



LAUNCH: CITB-ConstructionSkills marketing manager David Plummer at the launch

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Human rights head signs up as new visiting professor at Christ Church

THE chief executive of the Equality and Human Rights Commission has been appointed a visiting professor in public administration at Canterbury Christ Church University.

The appointment recognises Mark Hammond's 25 years of public service in central and local government, and his current role at the commission.

Mr Hammond will also be taking part in the university's public lecture series on December 7, examining the de-

velopment of individual rights in Britain starting with the Magna Carta in 1215, through the Barons' revolt against King John, to the Human Rights Act of 1998.

Equality and Human Rights Commission chairman Trevor Phillips said Mr Hammond would provide students with a real insight into the professional world.

He added: "We are pleased for Mark that he has been offered this role. It will be a great op-

portunity for students to learn from someone with Mark's public sector experience, and it is a welcome recognition of the growing importance of these issues in delivering excellent public services."

Mr Hammond added: "Canterbury Christ Church University has a tremendous record in public administration and government. I hope to be contributing to its work in developing courses and training for future managers of public services."

Great day for pewterers as UCA wins big

THE University for the Creative Arts came close to a clean sweep at the Pewter Live Awards, which honour the country's top pewter designers and craftspeople.

Nominees from UCA Rochester won two of the three student categories and also scooped two third-place prizes, while UCA Farnham in Surrey took home a runners-up prize at Pewterers' Hall in London.

Brian Hill, course leader of silversmithing, goldsmithing and jewellery at UCA Rochester, said: "We have been participating in Pewter Live for nearly 10 years and although we have enjoyed successes in previous years, this was definitely our strongest and best set of results to date.

"I am absolutely thrilled with the breadth and depth of achievement from our students, and it is a ringing endorsement that our crafts courses have the ability to positively respond to external live projects and creatively interpret design briefs into successful 3D pieces that are positively endorsed from the respective profession."

Third-year student Richard Gamester, 39, from Rochester, won the decorative arts category for a collection of pewter condiment pourers encased in Finnish soapstone.

He said: "It means a lot to win this award as I have worked hard throughout my course, so this recognition makes it all worth the effort.

"As a designer, winning awards is very important to help you make a name for yourself and get noticed, so I hope this award will kick-start



WINNER: UCA Rochester's Richard Gamester

my career when I leave university next year."

There was a clean sweep for UCA in the interior, architectural and furniture category, with first place going to UCA Rochester's Sanni Falkenberg for a set of pewter plant pots which create a piece of living art.

Melina Xenaki from UCA Farnham's 3D design course was runner-up with her Picasso-inspired pewter chessboard table and set, while Tyrone Ward from UCA Rochester came third for her innovative magnetic key dome.

Yet another UCA Rochester student – Victoria Freeman – came third in the student fashion category for her pewter-embellished mask.

Young chefs to take part in charity fundraiser for Demelza hospices

CATERING students at Mid-Kent College have been invited to devise their own mouth-watering recipes for the Demelza Dessert Design Challenge.

Their task is to develop a pudding that could feature on the menu of the Barn Restaurant in Rainham, with proceeds from the sale of the winning dish being donated to the Sittingbourne-based Demelza Hospice Care for Children.

The student behind the winning recipe will also win a work

experience placement at the eatery, owned by chef and contest judge Damon Dalmedo.

He said: "I'm very enthusiastic about the challenge. It's a great opportunity for the students but is not an easy task.

"As well as creating a winning recipe, they will need to apply their business head, working out the costings of their dish and the sale price – what they expect people to pay for their dessert.

"Sadly, I will not get to taste

all of the wonderful new puddings because the first round of the challenge will be judged on the students' menu description of their dessert and their costings. Three finalists will be selected at this stage and invited into my kitchen to actually make their desserts."

Demelza fundraiser Laura Smyth said: "This is a great fundraising activity and different to anything we have been involved in before. I'm looking forward to the final round."

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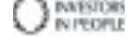
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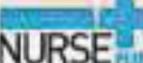


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Monday 17th October 2011

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Bradstow School

Bradstow is a fascinating and unique residential school for children between the ages of 5 & 19, set in 13 acres of parkland just a few hundred metres from the sandy beaches of Broadstairs. We seek to meet the needs of children with autism and severe learning difficulties, and have achieved national recognition for our developments in Communication and Behaviour Management.

TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS - CHILDCARE
£13,874 plus 10% per annum - 41 hours per week,
(including weekends) - Term time only, plus 2 weeks *
& £4,994 - 15 hours per week, (weekends only) -
Term time only, plus 2 weeks *

Also Flexi-Bank Team Support Worker positions available
As part of the childcare team, these roles involve providing care and support to students from Classrooms to Childcare Teams afternoons and evenings during the week and late or early shifts each weekend

CHILDCARE SUPPORT ASSISTANTS
£10,079 plus 10% per annum - 36.5 hours per week,
(including weekends) - Term time only, plus 2 weeks *

As part of the childcare team, these roles involve providing care and support to students mornings, evenings and weekends.

LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS – EDUCATION

£12,689 per annum - 37½ hours per week,
7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (from Childcare Teams into Classrooms) Mon-Fri - Term time only, plus 2 weeks *

The successful applicants will be responsible for assisting teachers and childcare team leaders in the school

INDIVIDUAL LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

£10,320 per annum - 34 hours per week,
9:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. Mon-Fri - Term time only

The successful applicants will be responsible for assisting teachers in the classrooms and have a particular responsibility towards one teaching group

*For these roles there will also be up to a maximum of two weeks for the school's respite care provision if required, for which extra payment would be paid.

For all posts we look for candidates who are mature, practical, flexible and responsible with a patient and caring attitude to deal sensitively with vulnerable children.

We are committed to sustainability and preserving the environment and therefore encourage applications by email, so for an application form and information pack please email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk.

Or you may call 01843 608727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine).

Please note that CV's will not be considered.

The closing date for all applications is 12 noon Friday 14th October 2011.



www.bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk

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Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Lecturer in Plumbing

Salary: £24,146 - £30,718 (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Maidstone

We are looking for an enthusiastic, highly motivated and well-organised lecturer to join our Plumbing department in the Faculty of Construction and Engineering. The successful candidate will be required to teach and assess on Plumbing/Building Services up to Level 2. Candidates will need to be qualified to L3 in Plumbing with significant practical experience within the industry. The post holder will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in English

Ref: P0320
Salary: £24,146 - £30,718 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
18.5 hours per week Chatham Maritime/Medway

We are seeking to appoint an outstanding candidate to deliver English classes on our Access to HE programmes. The successful candidate will have experience of teaching adult learners who are returning to education and experience of teaching at GCSE level would be advantageous. The post holder will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Hourly paid Lecturer in Motor Vehicle

Ref: SE720
Hourly rate: £22.45 - £27.22 per hour (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Maidstone

We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic candidate to teach and assess on a range of Motor Vehicle courses. The successful candidate will possess a minimum level 3 qualification and have proven experience in the Motor Vehicle industry. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification.

Hourly Paid Lecturer in Music

Ref: SE551
Hourly Rate: £22.45 - £27.22 per hour (Dependent on Qualifications and Experience)
Medway

The successful candidate will have a creative attitude coupled with excellent communication skills and will contribute to the delivery of Music programmes up to Level 3. A Degree or HND in a Music subject and professional experience with current knowledge of the music industry is essential, with the ability to conduct and guide rehearsals. The post holder will teach music theory and read music and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Hourly Paid Wardrobe tutor and Costume Designer

Ref: SE390
Hourly Rate: £22.45 - £27.22 per hour (Dependent on Qualifications and Experience)
Medway

We are looking to recruit a passionate individual to contribute to the Productions throughout the College. The successful candidate will have proven industry experience as well as knowledge of costume design for theatre, stage costume making and stage wardrobe management. The post holder will hold a Degree level or equivalent qualification within a relevant subject area and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Recruitment Assistant

Ref: JS001
Salary: £15,891 - £19,464 per annum/pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Full time role available at Medway & Part time role available at Maidstone

The College is looking to recruit exceptional individuals to assist and support in the operation of the Job Shop services, developing strong links with local employers to establish employment opportunities for students. The successful candidate will provide generalist advice to teaching and support staff in line with the College and departmental procedures and assist in the day to day running of the Job Shop, a front line customer service role. Experience within a sales or marketing role is desirable.

Departmental Administrator

Ref: P0496
Salary: £15,503 - £18,066 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
22.2 hours per week/41 weeks per year

We are looking to recruit an Administrator/Secretary with excellent administration and organisational skills, to join the Construction and Engineering Faculty, assisting the Head of Faculty with the day to day smooth running of the department. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate knowledge of office procedures and ability to use MS office packages.

Chemistry Technician

Ref: P0070
18.5 hours per week Salary: £17,050 - £21,339 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)

We are looking to recruit a highly experienced individual to support the technical provision within the Science Department from GCSE level to HND in Applied Chemistry. The successful candidate will be supporting staff and students throughout the Department and will hold a qualification in Chemistry at degree level or equivalent. Previous applicants need not apply.

Closing date: 12 noon Friday 21 October 2011

MidKent College and RBLI Employment Solutions are working in partnership to support disabled applicants. For assistance please contact RBLI on 0800783114 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk

For an application pack and further details visit www.midkent.ac.uk or e mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively you may contact Human Resources on 01634 383102.

The College is committed to safeguarding children and young people therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a CRB check.



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MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND

CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR

CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: Folkestone Town Council Office, 4-5 Princes Gate, Folkestone

Applicant: Sharon Birch

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey

Head of Registration

Regulatory Services

First Floor, Invicta House,

Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX



KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND

CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR

CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: Mountains, Noble Tree Road, Hildenborough

Applicant: Shirley Spencer

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey

Head of Registration

Regulatory Services

First Floor, Invicta House,

Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX



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THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL Town and Country Planning Act Notice of Applications

- MA/11/1147/N** - 34 HIGH STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1JH - Change of use from A1 (retail) to A5 (hot food takeaway) and installation of extract system. **Reason:** 1, 2
- MA/11/1177/N** - 2, ASHFORD ROAD, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4LP - Change of use building from C3 Dwelling to C1 Student Boarding House. **Reason:** 1
- MA/11/1433/N** - LINSOT, ROUNDWELL, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4HJ - Resubmission of MA/11/0638 (Demolition of existing bungalow and construction of two chalet bungalows with double garages (Amendments to design of approved application MA/07/0717)) being amendments to include a retaining wall and fencing to the front and side boundaries; and alterations to the internal arrangement resulting in alterations to the arrangement of openings. **Reason:** 1
- MA/11/1481/S** - LAND SOUTH OF 1, BELL LANE, STAPLEHURST, KENT, TN12 0BA - Demolition of existing garage blocks and the erection of six two-bedroom elderly persons bungalows with associated parking and private amenity space, together with the alteration/improvement of the existing vehicular access from Bell Lane. **Reason:** 1, 2
- MA/11/1494/N** - 53, EYHORNE STREET, HOLLINGBOURNE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1TS - Erection of a single storey side extension, a two storey rear extension and changes to fenestration (revised scheme to MA/11/0536). **Reason:** 1, 2
- MA/11/1495/N** - 53, EYHORNE STREET, HOLLINGBOURNE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1TS - Conservation area consent for the demolition of existing extensions. **Reason:** 4
- MA/11/1502/N** - 49 - 50 MARSHAM STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT - Conversion of dwelling into two dwellings. **Reason:** 2
- MA/11/1515/S** - SWAN HOUSE, HIGH STREET, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6HS - Erection of post and rope boundary treatment including lockable post to vehicle entrance of site. **Reason:** 1, 2
- MA/11/1516/** - SWAN HOUSE, HIGH STREET, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6HS - Listed building consent for the erection of post and rope boundary treatment including lockable post to vehicle entrance of site. **Reason:** 3
- MA/11/1525/N** - THORNHAM MILL PLACE, OTHAM LANE, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 8SJ - Extensions to existing outbuilding. **Reason:** 1
- MA/11/1526/S** - HENIKERS, HENIKER LANE, SUTTON VALENCE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3EE - Listed building consent for conversion of existing garage to form new kitchen/breakfast room, alterations to form garden store within existing kitchen/utility room, and re-cladding of existing storage barn with soft-wood weatherboarding stained black. **Reason:** 3
- MA/11/1589/N** - 72, BANK STREET, MAIDSTONE, ME14 1SN - Extension and alterations to create seven apartments. **Reason:** 1, 2
- MA/11/1540/S** - FORMER WHATMAN SITE PARKWOOD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, BIRCHOLT ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 9XJ - Demolition of existing buildings and construction of a new Royal Mail Delivery Office (Class B8 use) together with the construction of a new footpath along part of the existing access road from Bircholt Road. **Reason:** 6

- Reasons for advertisement key:**
- 1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
 - 2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
 - 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
 - 4 - Application is for Conservation Area Consent.
 - 6 - Application is Major Development.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **23rd October 2011**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 9th October 2011



Planning applications

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

- CA/11/01226/FUL:** 42 High Street, Littlebourne, CT3 1ST First-floor extension to rear of dwelling. **Applicant:** Mrs Ufton **Reason:** Conservation area.
- CA/11/01452/FUL:** The Coach House, 7 Mill Road, Sturry, CT2 0AJ Demolition of existing buildings and erection of seven dwellings with associated parking. **Applicant:** Mr Marsh **Reason:** Conservation area.
- CA/11/01518/FUL:** Herne House, Canterbury Road, Herne, CT6 7JX Erection of two outbuildings and conversion of an existing outbuilding for use as a boarding cattery. **Applicant:** Mr and Mrs White **Reason:** Conservation area.
- CA/11/01574/LIE:** Telephone Exchange, Ashford Road, Chatham, CT4 7HS Certificate of lawful use (existing) for building as a single dwelling house. **Applicant:** Mr and Mrs Hutchings **Reason:** Conservation area.
- CA/11/01583/FUL:** 12 Downs Park, Herne Bay, CT6 6BY Replacement windows to front elevation. **Applicant:** Mrs Diane Nutter **Reason:** Conservation area.
- CA/11/01598/ADV:** Student Union Building, Canterbury Christ Church University, North Holmes Road, Canterbury, CT1 1QU Externally illuminated fascia and projecting sign. **Applicant:** Canterbury Christ Church University **Reason:** Conservation area.
- CA/11/01599/FUL:** 2 Clavering Cottages, The Mint, Church Hill, Harbledown, CT2 8NN Two and single-storey side and rear extension to dwelling and provision of two first-floor windows in the flank elevation, (Revised scheme). **Applicant:** Mr De Hann **Reason:** Conservation area.
- CA/11/01600/TAM:** Land to the side of 1 Cromwell Road fronting Puckle Lane, Canterbury, CT1 3LB Installation of equipment cabinet. **Applicant:** Harlequin Ltd **Reason:** Conservation area.
- CA/11/01608/TAM:** Land outside Barton Grammar School, Longport, Canterbury, CT1 1PH Installation of equipment cabinet. **Applicant:** Harlequin Ltd **Reason:** Conservation area.
- CA/11/01623/FUL:** 35 Spenser Road, Herne Bay, CT6 5QN Alterations to front boundary wall. **Applicant:** Mr S King **Reason:** Conservation area.
- CA/11/01628/FUL:** 50 Mill Lane, Harbledown, CT2 8NE Change of use from C3 dwellinghouse to D1 nursery. **Applicant:** Mrs K Tabony **Reason:** Conservation area.
- CA/11/01631/FUL:** 17 Cross Street, Canterbury, CT2 8AT Demolition of single-storey building to rear and erection of replacement two-storey extension. **Applicant:** Central Properties (Keighley) Ltd **Reason:** Conservation area.
- CA/11/01645/LB:** 17 Cross Street, Canterbury, CT2 8AT Demolition of single-storey building to rear and erection of replacement two-storey extension. **Applicant:** Central Properties (Keighley) Ltd **Reason:** Work to a listed building.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to development.control@canterbury.gov.uk to arrive on or before **Monday 31 October 2011**.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 7 October 2011

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Town and Country Planning Acts

- The Council is required to give notice of the following applications
- 11/02709/FUL** Botley 7 Nevill Park, Broadwater - Roof alterations and rear extension to existing garage block (CA)
- 11/02859/LBC** 4 Cliffe Cottages North Road, Goudhurst - Listed Building Consent: Widening of decayed dormer window to rear elevation (LB)
- 11/02883/HOUSE** Mayfield House Maypole Lane, Goudhurst - Open bay garage with garden store (CA)
- 11/02895/LBC** 4 Cliffe Cottages North Road, Goudhurst - Listed Building Consent: Structural repairs; window and front door repairs; external finishes and thermal insulation; repairs to kitchen floor and second floor; reinstatement of inglenook fireplace (LB)
- 11/02904/HOUSE** 4 Cliffe Cottages North Road, Goudhurst - Widening of decayed dormer window to rear elevation (CA) (LB)
- 11/02800/FUL** North Hill Saw Mill North Hill Road, Hawkhurst - Demolition of workshop and erection of a live/work unit (CA)
- 11/02857/HOUSE** Conghurst Cottages Conghurst Lane, Hawkhurst - Conversion of two dwellings to single dwelling (LB)
- 11/02864/LBC** Conghurst Cottages Conghurst Lane, Hawkhurst - Listed building consent - conversion of two dwellings to single dwelling (LB)
- 11/02873/FUL** Longbrooks Farm Knowle Road, Paddock Wood - New shared replacement drive, 3.7m wide, to access Longbrooks Farmhouse and Hawkbrand House (LB)
- 11/02788/HOUSE** Garden Cottage 16 Calverley Park Gardens, Park - Removal of existing fence fronting Pembury Road and erection of new fence with landscaping (CA)
- 11/02641/HOUSE** The Manor House 3 Lower Green Road, Pembury - Single-storey rear conservatory (CA) (LB)
- 11/02642/LBC** The Manor House 3 Lower Green Road, Pembury - Listed Building Consent - Single-storey rear conservatory (LB)
- 11/02592/FUL** 15B Church Road Southborough, Southborough North - Change of use from B1/B8 to D2 (Retrospective) (CA) (LB)
- 11/02793/FUL** Land Rear Of 35 London Road, Southborough North - Demolition of an existing B1 use building and construct a two storey, two bedroom dwelling (CA)
- 11/02892/HOUSE** 4 Kibbles Lane Southborough, Southborough North - Orangery to rear elevation and ground floor extension front elevation (CA) (LB)
- 11/02742/FUL** Burrswood Groomebridge, Speeldhurst - Remedial work to unstable wall (LB)
- (DEPVLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planning.comments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS
Dated: 8 October 2011



Public Notice

9 October 2011



Local Government Act 1972 – Section 123(2A) (as inserted by the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980)

Proposed disposals of land at Whitstable Harbour, Whitstable which are designated as public open spaces.

Canterbury City Council hereby gives notice of their intention to dispose of land at Whitstable Harbour, Whitstable, which are designated as public open spaces, by the granting of two leases to Whitstable Oyster Fishery Company for use as decking areas to a restaurant on an adjoining site and for car parking.

The proposed lands to be leased are as follows:

Site A – 169.3 sq m being an area of the East Quay with access via a narrow section of the shingle beach.

Site B – 221.1 sq m and is a section of shingle beach immediately to the seaward side of the East Quay restaurant.

Site C – 222.6 sq m and is an area of the harbour which has been laid out as a car park but was formerly used as a Sea Scouts boat park.

A plan showing the above areas may be inspected at the Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW between the hours of 8.30am and 5pm Mondays to Fridays.

Anyone wishing to make objections to the proposed disposals of land should make them in writing to David Reed, Strategic Director, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW so as to arrive not later than **Monday 7 November 2011**.

Colin Carmichael
Chief Executive
Canterbury City Council
Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW

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Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Riley Fabrication Services Limited of unit 5, The Nortons, Collier Street, Marden, Kent. TN12 9RR is applying for licence to use Unit 5, The Nortons, Collier Street, Marden, Kent. TN12 9RR as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicle and to use as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicle. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Ivy House, 3 Ivy Terrace, Eastbourne, BN21 4QT stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representation is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office, www.businesslink.gov.uk

Kent Police Authority AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2010/11 NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETION OF AUDIT

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that under Regulation 11 of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011, the District Auditor has completed the audit of the above accounts for the year ended 31 March 2011. An unqualified opinion and the audit certificate on the accounts were issued by the District Auditor on 29 July 2011. On the same date, the District Auditor issued an unqualified conclusion on the Authority's arrangements for securing value for money as required by the Audit Commission's Code of Practice. The Auditor has not identified any issues of public interest to report under Section 8 of the Audit Commission Act 1998.

In accordance with Section 14 of the 1998 Act, any local government elector for the area may:

Inspect and make copies of the Statement of Accounts
Ask the Authority for a copy of the Statement of Accounts
The Statement of Accounts is available for inspection by any local government elector for the area at Kent Police Headquarters, Sutton Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 9BZ, on weekdays (excluding public holidays) between 9am and 4pm.

The accounts can also be found at www.kentpoliceauthority.gov.uk/police-spending/statement-of-accounts

David Lewis
Treasurer



PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF DOVER

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH EE477 EYTHORNE) PUBLIC PATH CREATION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

The above Order made under Section 26 of the Highways Act 1980 to create new length of Public Footpath numbered EE477 with a width of 2.0 metres which commences at NGR TR 2864 4885 (Point C) on the Order plan, and continues in a north north-easterly direction for 188 metres to NGR TR 2872 4903 (Point D). Between points C-D on the Order plan. All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Dover District Council, Dover Gateway, Church Street, Dover, Kent, CT16 1PD or the Kent County Council, Environment & Waste at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order may be sent in writing to Matthew Garvey at the address below (Tel: 01622 221971) before 07 November 2011. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

If no representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH EE351 EYTHORNE) PUBLIC PATH EXTINGUISHMENT AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

The above Order made under Section 118 of the Highways Act 1980 to extinguish the entire width of that length of Public Footpath numbered EE351 which commences at NGR TR 2856 4889 (point A) on the Order Plan, and continues in a north north-easterly direction for 170 metres to NGR TR 2862 4905 (Point B). Between points A-B on the Order Plan. All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Dover District

Council, Dover Gateway, Church Street, Dover, Kent, CT16 1PD or the Kent County Council, Environment & Waste at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order may be sent in writing to Matthew Garvey at the address below (Tel: 01622 221971) before 07 November 2011. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

If no representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

PROW - BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE & MALLING

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS MU88 AND MU43 IN TONBRIDGE

PUBLIC FOOTPATHS MU88 AND MU43 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1) AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath MU88 between Scott Road and Masefield Way and Footpath MU43 between Sussex Road and (Hayesbrook School) on Brook Street from the 21st October 2011.

The paths will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that they will reopen before 1st November 2011.

The paths are to be closed because works are planned on or near them and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michele Snodding

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Dated: 9th October 2011

The above notice(s) may be provided in other formats

For further information, please contact
Kent Countryside Access Service,
on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess



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Public Notice

9 October 2011



Local Government Act 1972 – Section 123(2A) (as inserted by the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980)

Proposed disposal of land adjacent to 92 Wincheap, Canterbury which is designated as public open space.

Canterbury City Council hereby gives notice of their intention to dispose of land adjacent to 92 Wincheap, Canterbury, which is designated as public open space.

The proposed land to be disposed of is 74.68 sq m and is an area which formed the former public conveniences.

A plan showing the above area may be inspected at the Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW between the hours of 8.30am and 5pm Mondays to Fridays.

Anyone wishing to make objections to the proposed disposal of the land should make them in writing to the David Reed, Strategic Director, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW so as to arrive not later than **Monday 7 November 2011**.

Colin Carmichael
Chief Executive
Canterbury City Council
Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400

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BIRTHS

COOK / JEFFERY

Helen Cook and Luke Jeffery celebrate the birth of their daughter Cara Louise Jeffery on 10th September 2011, weighing 5lbs 2oz, arriving 7 weeks early.

MUNDAY

Poppy born on 22nd September 2011, weighing 7lbs. Daughter to Michelle and Daniel and sister to Harrison.

SMITH

Rhian and Benn of Nonington are delighted to announce the birth of Max Alexander Charles Smith on 15th September 2011

DEATHS

DAISY

Len Daisy passed away peacefully on the 27th September 2011. Re-united with his beloved wife Joan and son Jeff. Funeral to be arranged enquiries to H R Palmer on 01843 592720, all welcome.

VICKERS

Dora Irene of Ashley, Kent passed away peacefully on the 25th September 2011 aged 86 years. There's an open gate at the end of the road through which each must go alone, and there, in a

light we cannot see, you will remain close to me.

WOLF

To my beloved husband Daniel Wolf (Wolfie) Died suddenly on 20th September 2011 aged 48 years. A true gentleman who served his community well, who was deeply loved and missed by all. Close family floral tributes only please, donations to Kent Air Ambulance via Pickard and Beale. Memorial service at All Saints Church Staplehurst on Tuesday 11th October at 12.00pm to be followed by cremation at Vinters Park at 2.00pm.



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HIGHWAYS - Ashford Borough Council

**A28 ASHFORD ROAD, HIGH HALDEN
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**
**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on A28 Ashford Road, High Halden, on or after 27 October 2011 for up to 2 nights, between 7.30 pm and 5.00 am.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Sunnydale.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Church Hill and Cripple Hill.

The alternative route is via Church Hill, Plurenden Road, Betherden Road and Woodchurch Road.

**A292 HYTHE ROAD, ASHFORD
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**
**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway surfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on A292 Hythe Road, Ashford, on or after 26 October 2011 for up to 2 nights between 9.00 pm and midnight, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Dering Road and Gordon Close.

The One-way Traffic Orders in respect of Star Road, Wallis Road and Dering Road will be suspended to allow access / exit.

The alternative route is via A292 Mace Lane, A2042 Wellesley Road, Station Road, Beaver Road, Romney Marsh Road, A2070 Bad Munstereifel Road, Willesborough Interchange and A292 Hythe Road.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

**CANTERBURY ROAD & BORSTAL HILL, WHITSTABLE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Canterbury Road & Borstal Hill, Whitstable, from 28 October until 5 November 2011 inclusive, between 7.00 pm and midnight.

The road will be closed in phases between the junctions with Gordon Road and Belmont Road.

The alternative routes are shown below, and are subject to a 13' 3" height restriction at Herne Bay Road

Northbound via B2205 Borstal Hill, A2990 Thanet Way, Herne Bay Road (note 13' 3" height restriction), St Swithin's Road, Tankerton Road, Tower Parade, Harbour Street, High Street and Oxford Street

Southbound via Cromwell Road, B2205 Tower Parade, Tankerton Road, Bennells Avenue, Herne Bay Road (note 13' 3" height restriction), A2990 Thanet Way and Borstal Hill.

Certain side roads will be closed at their junction with Canterbury Road as the works progress, with local diversions set up wherever possible.

**SEA VIEW ROAD, HERNE BAY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of remedial carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Sea View Road, Herne Bay, on or after 25 October 2011 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Beltinge Road and Reculver Road.

The alternative routes are

Southbound via Beltinge Road and Cliff Avenue

Northbound via Reculver Road, Grange Road, Landon Road and Beltinge Road.

**A28 WINCHEAP / THANINGTON ROAD, CANTERBURY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on A28 Wincheap / Thanington Road, Canterbury, from 14 October until 28 October 2011 inclusive.

The planned work times are between 8.00 pm and midnight, with the road re-opened outside these hours.

The road will be closed in phases between the junctions with Ten Perch Road and Simmonds Road.

The alternative route is via Ten Perch Road, The Boundary, Cotton Road, Cow Lane and Simmonds Road.

Local side roads will be closed at their junctions with Wincheap at certain times as the works progress. This will be signposted on site, with local diversions.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of York Road will be suspended when it is closed at the junction with Wincheap, to allow traffic to exit.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

**A258 DEAL ROAD, WORTH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on A258 Deal Road, Worth, on or after 16 October 2011 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Jubilee Road, Worth.

There will be no access for through traffic between Deal and Sandwich using the A258.

The alternative route is via A258 Deal Road, A256 Sandwich Road, Eastry By-pass, Whitfield By-pass, Dover Road, A2 between A256 Junction and Duke of York Roundabout, A258 Deal Road, Dover Road, The Strand, Victoria Road, Ranelagh Road, (Deal Castle Road in reverse), Prince of Wales Terrace, Broad Street, Queen Street and London Road.

**MILL ROAD, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mill Road, Deal, on or after 24 October 2011 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed to the north of the junction with Hamilton Road.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Hamilton Road and Sycamore Drive.

The alternative route is via Mill Road, B2056 Manor Road, St Leonard's Road, A58 London Road and Allenby Avenue.

**SANDWICH ROAD, EYTHORNE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to install and new frame and cover in the carriageway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Sandwich Road, Eythorne, on or after 26 October 2011 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of number 33.

The alternative route is via Green Lane, Monkton Court Lane, The Street and Sandwich Road.

**ST RADIGUND'S ROAD, DOVER
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of essential drainage works to prevent flooding, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on St Radigund's Road, Dover, on or after 10 October 2011 for up to 11 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with A256 London Road and Lister Court.

The alternative route is via London Road, Eric Road and Oswald Road.

The One-way Traffic Order between the junctions with London Road and Magdala Road will be suspended to allow access.

**A256 YORK STREET, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting northbound traffic on the A256 York Street, Dover, on or after 11

October 2011 for up to 5 weekdays or until the works have been completed.

The northbound carriageway of York Street will be closed for its entire length between 7.00 am and 7.00 pm each week day and re-opened outside these hours. The alternative route is via A20 Snargate Street, Limekiln Street, Archcliffe Road, A20 Trunk Road and B2011 Folkestone Road.

Durham Hill will be closed at the junction with York Street, with a local diversion via North Military Road and South Military Road.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Maison Dieu Road will be suspended between the junctions with Castle Street and Pencester Road for up to 7 days. This only applies to buses on stage carriage services and access for residents on the south western side of this section of road.

There will be No Right Turn from Dieu Stone Lane into Maison Dieu Road, and traffic will need to turn left.

HIGHWAYS - District of Gravesham

**SHEPHERD STREET, GRAVESEND - (TEMPORARY
PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Shepherd Street, Gravesend between Salem Place and Dover Road.

The Order will become effective on 10th October 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 2 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be: Dover Road (southbound), Vale Road, A226 Thames Way, Springhead Road, York Road and Shepherd Street. Dover Road (northbound), B2175 The Hill, Springhead Road and Shepherd Street.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate installation of a gas main.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(DEAN STREET, EAST FARLEIGH
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out by the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Dean Street, outside Frith Farm on or after Sunday 30th October 2011 when required for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Forge Lane, Vicarage Lane, B2010 Lower Road, Gallants Lane, B2163 Heath Road.

UK Power Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install a new electric supply. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Alan Piralic of Renteq Traffic Management Ltd on 01634 256291

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(HIGH STREET, MAIDSTONE)
(PROHIBITION OF EASTBOUND TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near the road the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by traffic on the sections of road as detailed below:-

Fairmeadow into High Street, Maidstone - Prohibition of traffic with the exception of buses and taxis. The alternative route for access to High Street/Mill Street will be via Earl Street and Pudding Lane.

Pudding Lane into High Street, Maidstone - Prohibition of traffic with the exception of buses, taxis, disabled badge holders and for access to off street premises. Access for loading will be permitted between the times 5.30pm to 10.30am.

The Order will come into operation on Friday 14th October 2011 and will be in use when required as indicated by signage on site over a period of up to 12 weeks or until such works are completed.

Eurovia Contracting Ltd apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for the construction of the Maidstone High Street Public Realm Project. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Matthew Taylor on 01622 754383.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

**CHAPMANS ROAD, SUNDRIDGE - (TEMPORARY
PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Chapmans Road, Sundridge from Church Road to the roundabout.

The Order will become effective on 24th October 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 2 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Church Road, A25 Main Road, New Road, Woodside Road, Chapmans Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway patching.

**PILGRIMS WAY EAST, KEMSING - (TEMPORARY
PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Pilgrims Way East, Kemsing between The Landway and Cotmans Ash Lane.

The Order will become effective on 24th October 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 25th October 2011 and last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: The Landway, West End, High Street, Heaverham Road, Cotmans Ash Lane and Pilgrims Way East.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate replacement of overhead power lines.

**SPEEDGATE, FAWKHAM AND MUSSENDEN LANE,
HORTON KIRBY AND SOUTH DARENT - (TEMPORARY
PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Speedgate Hill, Fawkham between Three Gates Road and Valley Road, the order also includes the closure of Mussenden Lane, Horton Kirby and South Darent between Three Gates Road and Lombard Street.

The Order for closure of Speedgate Hill will become effective on 24th October 2011, the order will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 1 week at Speedgate Hill , Fawkham.

The works at Mussenden Lane will commence on 3rd November 2011 and last 2 weeks on Mussenden Lane, Horton Kirby and South Darent. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Speedgate Hill - Three Gates Road, Scudders Hill and Valley Road.

Mussenden Lane - Three Gates Road, School Lane and Lombard Street

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate installation of a new low voltage mains cable.

**For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways**



HIGHWAYS - In the District of Sevenoaks and the Borough of Tunbridge Wells**POUNDSBRIDGE LANE, PENSURST - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Poundsbridge Lane, Penshurst between B2176 Penshurst Road and Poundsbridge Hill.

The Order will become effective on 24th October 2011. It will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The restriction will be effective when required and when the appropriate signage is in place. The works are planned to last for 10 days.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: B2176 Rogues Hill, B2188 High Street, B2188 Fordcombe Road, B2188 New Road, B2188 Saints Hill, B2188 Spring Hill, The Lane (Fordcombe Lane), Poundsbridge Hill.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate ditching, verge repair and patching works.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet**MAYNARD AVENUE, MARGATE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to provide a new wastewater connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Maynard Avenue, Margate, on or after 10 October 2011 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Westfield Road.

The alternative route is via B2052 George V Avenue and Westfield Road.

**MONKTON ROAD, MINSTER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of remedial repairs to the road surface, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Monkton Road, Minster, on or after 24 October 2011 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Prospect Road.

The alternative route is via Monkton Road, Monkton Street, Willets Hill, A299 Canterbury Road West and Tothill Street.

**A254 RAMSGATE ROAD, MARGATE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

For the safety of the public and workforce during railway bridge repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on A254 Ramsgate Road, Margate, in the vicinity of the railway bridge.

The planned closure times are

**26 October 2011 at 11.00 pm until 27 October at 7.00 am
31 October 2011 at 11.00 pm until 1 November at 7.00 am**

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Connaught Road and Queens Avenue.

The alternative routes are

Northbound via B2052 College Road, A255 St Peter's Road and Ramsgate Road

Southbound via (A255 Grosvenor Gardens, High Street) St Peter's Road, B2052 College Road, and Ramsgate Road

**A256 RICHBOROUGH WAY & A299 HENGIST WAY,
MINSTER (50 MPH SPEED LIMIT)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

For the safety of the public and workforce during the construction of the East Kent Access road, Kent County

Council has made an Order to impose a temporary mandatory speed limit of 50 mph on the A256 Richborough Way & A299 Hengist Way, Minster, on or after 10 October 2011 for up to 6 months or until the works have been completed.

The roads affected are the A256 'Richborough Way' from Ebbsfleet Roundabout to and including the new Sevenscore Roundabout, and the new A299 'Hengist Way' from Sevenscore Roundabout to a point approximately 20 metres south of Cliffsend Roundabout.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(ASHES LANE, HADLOW)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Ashes Lane between A26 Tonbridge Road and High House Lane on or after Wednesday 26th October 2011 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via A26 Tonbridge Road, Cuckoo Lane, Higham Lane, Ashes Lane.

BT Openreach apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for cabling. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Rachel Cross on 0870 050079.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(BUS LANE, RAILWAY STATION, TONBRIDGE)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on the bus lane outside of Tonbridge Railway Station on or after Monday 10 October 2011 when required for a period of up to 25 weeks or until such works are complete.

John Sisk & Son Ltd apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to allow station refurbishment works to be carried out safely. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Frank Uzokwe on 0172 875551.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(BUTCHERS LANE, MEREWORTH)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Butchers Lane between numbers 240 and 250 on or after Monday 24th October 2011 for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Beech Road, Beaufighter Road, A228 Malling Road, The Street, Butchers Lane.

UK Power Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for a new electrical supply. Should you require any further information for these works, please contact Scott Davis on 01732 783986.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(OLDBURY LANE , IGHTHAM)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Oldbury Barn on or after Monday 24th October when required for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is Ightham bypass (access will be available at all times).

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to allow access to replace Gas Mains. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Ben Eastwood. On 0800119999 For further information or comment please call Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(B2169 FURNACE LANE, HOOK GREEN, LAMBERHURST,
TUNBRIDGE WELLS (VARIOUS SPEED LIMITS)
ORDER 2011**

NOTICE is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The effect of the proposed Order will introduce various speed limits on the following road or lengths of road;

Schedule 1 - (40 mph Speed Limit)

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| B2169 Furnace Lane | From a point 142 metres eastwards of the junction centre-line of Clay Hill Road. |
| Clay Hill Road, Lamberhurst | From its junction with B2169 Furnace Lane north-eastwards for a distance of 47 metres. |
| Free Heath Road, Lamberhurst | From its junction with B2169 Furnace Lane south-westwards for a distance of 73 metres. |

Schedule 2 - (50 mph Speed Limit)

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| B2169 Furnace Lane | From a point 32 metres westwards of the centre line of the access road to Lamberhurst Manor to a point 142 metres eastwards of the centre line of Clay Hill Road, and from a point 48 metres eastwards of the East Sussex boundary and to a point 14 metres westwards from the centre-line of the access road to Nos. 2 & 3 Bull Lane Cottages. |
| Neills Road, Lamberhurst | From its junction with B2169 Furnace Lane south-westwards for a distance of 32 metres. |

A copy of the proposed Order, statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, a map indicating the location and the effect and a copy of any other Orders which will be amended by the proposed Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Town Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone during normal opening hours.

If you wish to offer support for, or object to the proposed Order you should send your grounds for your observations, quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons in writing to the Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent. TN24 8AD or by email to td.sevenoaks.twells@kent.gov.uk by 7th November 2011.

If you wish to offer support for, or object to the proposed Order you should send your grounds for your observations, quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons in writing to the Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent. TN24 8AD or by email to td.sevenoaks.twells@kent.gov.uk by 7th November 2011.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(LANGTON ROAD, SPELDHURST)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Langton Road outside The Glebe House on or after Sunday 30th October 2011 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Langton Road, Speldhurst Road, The Green, A264 Langton Road/Bishops Down/Mount Ephraim, A26 St Johns Road, Speldhurst Road, Etherington Hill, Speldhurst Hill.

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install a new service. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Amy Colvin on 01689 881315.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(A268 LINK HILL, SANDHURST, TUNBRIDGE WELLS
(40 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2011**

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The effect of the proposed Order will introduce various speed limits on the following road or lengths of road;

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| A268 Link Hill, Sandhurst | From a point 32 metres east of the junction centre-line of Marsh Quarter Lane and to a point 65 metres east of the junction centre-line of Lomas Lane. |
|----------------------------------|---|

A copy of the proposed Order, statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, a map indicating the location and the effect and a copy of any other Orders which will be amended by the proposed Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Town Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone during normal opening hours.

If you wish to offer support for, or object to the proposed Order you should send your grounds for your observations, quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons in writing to the Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent. TN24 8AD or by email to td.sevenoaks.twells@kent.gov.uk by 7th November 2011.

Katherine Kerswell
Group Managing Director
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 9th October 2011

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
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(T&C's below)

JANE 50, young at heart, GSOH, divorced, new to Worthing, seeks male who wants to do something adventurous like travel the USA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387526

LOOKING for company with someone who can restore my faith in the male species! Karen, sensible 36y old brunette seeking genuine fun and frolics. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377107

LORRAINE single mum new to the area starting again, OHAC, GSOH, WLTM nice guy to cuddle up with and appreciate, maybe more. Single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 37709

LAURA slim attractive stylish feminine, GSOH looking for similar to enjoy good times with. Discretion expected/assured. Any age/status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377095

H I'm Louise, an easygoing sensual slim blonde looking for someone to have fun with initially maybe later. Call me. Any age/status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377096

KAREN 58, 5ft 6ins, medium build, fun loving, romantic, caring, extrovert, seeks male of similar age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387902

TALL long haired brunette, slim attractive, big green eyes, WLTM gentle for mutual companionship, maybe leading to more. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376558

MIA attractive slim fit female looking for someone to put the spark back in my life, seeking fun, adventurous and passionate male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376557

LYDIA quiet black female, slim, looking for love with nice guy. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376421

I don't wanna be alone and unattached for another Xmas! Be at tractive, big hearted, many interests, seeks male willing to take an interest in me! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376593

KAZ 23y old intelligent mixed race female, likes gym, meals in/out, seeks reliable, honest male, 38-58yrs to get to know for it. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376591

NATALIE blonde blue eyed nurse, 39yrs medium build, no ties, life good but I'm missing someone to love and lust after. Can you help? Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376589

DONNA 26yrs, blue eyes, blonde, bored of spending nights alone, looking for average looking male, 23-55yrs for TLC. Dads welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376563

DONNA lost my faith in men and looking for someone feisty to relight my fire, are you the one, call me, whatya got to lose? Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375705

JULIE pretty 38y old Irish female who is lonely as new to the area, looking for mate up to 65yrs for tactile companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374705

JANE passionate lady seeking unconventional young at heart male 35-50 for free spirited, open-minded fun and new experiences. Single dads welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375611

CHRIS

attractive slim redhead seeks nice male to relax with, get to know and share a glass of wine and maybe a takeaway. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374701

CHARLOTTE 30, sweet French female, long legs, sporty, fit and healthy, seeking well built, fit guy to share interests and show me new ones. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372687

GEORGINA likes horses, dogs, walks, seeks male, 60-72 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384268

LUCY bubbly attractive 32y old blonde seeking similar naughty boy to share the good side of life with. Age/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373109

CLAIRE Gorgeous fun loving brunnette, 29, 5ft 4ins, employed. OHAC, looking for mainly male up to 45yrs for no strings good times and fine wine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373107

CASSIE looking for good times, laughs, meals out with down to earth male -30yrs who is looking for fun not commitment. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375575

CAROL 39yrs attractive slim brunnette just looking for genuine caring mate for romance, meals in and maybe more. Any age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375575

SASHA 28y old beautiful surfer babe looking for fun initially, maybe more with fit confident male who can handle me. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375135

AMANDA cuddly 36y old easygoing caring lonely female just looking for love with nice guy, 30-55yrs. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375133

KAREN 36, post op trans gender seeks guy for LTR. Gosport/Fareham. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372228

LINDA 68, N/S, likes nights in, meals out, holidays, GSOH, seeking a gent 60-70 for LTR. Surrey. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375651

DEBS petite brunnette, 38yrs, well travelled, loves food and good wine. WLTM affectionate male for nice times. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374673

KAREN 36, pretty blonde who is stuck in a rut looking for easygoing kinda guy for discreet romantic meals and drives out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374673

CUDDLY lady 65, blue eyed blonde, 5ft 3ins, 65, N/S, GSOH, animal lover, drives, WLTM tall, well built, caring single male, 50-70. Basingstoke. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372233

YOUNG looking petite female prepared to try anything once, looking for similar open-minded tactful guy for fun loving times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372217

CAROLINE 31, Attractive, slim but curvy brunnette, witty and fun seeking relaxed, male for fun times together. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375007

H I am Marie, a pretty middle aged fully divorcee missing male company seeking love and laughter with likeminded man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373003

CHRISTINE attractive 49y old female, N/S, caring, GSOH, genuine, seeks male partner of similar age in the Bucks area to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373987

QUIET genuine 53y old female, GSOH, likes nights in/out, seeks 40-50y old N/S male for friendship/LTR. Eastbourne. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386674

LOVELY tall slim female, very caring and fun but missing that va-va-voom! Seeks adventurous male who's up for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374159

FULL TIME vacancy arisen for open minded male seeking uncomplicated relationship with slim professional 39y old female with wicked sense of humour. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375703

ACTIVE slim female 30yrs, easygoing, honest with GSOH and a passion for life looking for genuine man to fall for, 28-50yrs. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370097

ATTRACTIVE cuddly, genuine, blue eyed blonde, 5ft 3ins, 65, N/S, GSOH, dog owner, animal lover. WLTM tall, well built animal loving male, 50-69 for friendship, romance, maybe more. Basingstoke. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371467

FEMININE slim, curvy lady, 58, nice eyes/smile, seeking peace loving, nature, theatre, music, WLTM genuine, caring, N/S gent, 34-47 to share laughter and life. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369411

LIFE

begins at 40! Pam outgoing athletic brunnette, tall, slender and attractive, WLTM older male with big personality for lots of fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 37501

ANGELA divorced lady, seeking companion to share days out, cinema, meals etc. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387350

NICKY 47 slim, honest, loyal, seeks tall, dark haired man for relationship. Surrey. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387586

EM attractive full bodied lady, mild mannered, sensual nature, looking for happy times and loving time with appreciative man. Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372659

CLASSY lady, slim, pretty, young looking graduate, mixed race 38, London, seeking a sugar daddy to spoil and pamper me. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363701

BIG busty brunnette, blue eyes, seeks sexy girl for fun times. Tunbridge Wells. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386420

ALICIA attractive petite female 22yrs, new to dating scene and area, loves nights in/out, WLTM male for adult fun. ACA. can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375135

AMANDA cuddly 36y old easygoing caring lonely female just looking for love with nice guy, 30-55yrs. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372157

GEORGINA likes horses, dogs, walks, seeks male, 60-72 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384268

SUSAN 38, affectionate outgoing medium built brunnette, seeking tall male with GSOH for cosy evenings with a good wine. Status/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374135

LINDA slim green eyed brunnette WLTM independent, good looking, fun, outdoorsy type guy with no ties for easygoing relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374133

SINGLE confident black female 32yrs, very attractive with a great body! Loves doing fun and interesting things, seeking a real man. Any race/age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367999

TALL slim brunnette with baby blue eyes sees strong, sensitive male who knows how and wants to enjoy life too. Can travel/accommodate 33-47yrs. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367999

SICK of always taking life so seriously, looking for uncomplicated fun times with happy outgoing male. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371473

CHRISTINE attractive 49y old female, N/S, caring, GSOH, genuine, seeks male partner of similar age in the Bucks area to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372055

ELIZABETH independent, no ties, solvent, fit and healthy, looking for similar passionate male, any age/looks for companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371601

BUSTY nurse slim size 10, brunnette, just looking for a bit of fun and good times with understanding nice younger man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372685

MARY 37, 5ft 5ins, brown hair/eyes, seeks female, 26-40. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388040

DAVID 62, gentleman, believes in a disciplined approach to life, seeks curvy likeminded lady for interesting relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 37183

ACTIVE solvent female with GSOH looking to start life again but this time be a lot more adventurous, care to join me? Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370181

CONFIDENT fair female bored of spending time alone, looking for fun times with shared interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370177

SANDRA green eyed slim brunnette, loves to keep fit, very competitive, seeks reliable mature male who can look after me and be loved in return. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375159

YOUNG at heart lady with lots to offer Mr Right looking for open-minded special male for adult fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370013

SONYA 35, voluptuous, brown hair, blue eyes, 5ft 8ins, mum of 2, employed, seeks N/S male up to 46 with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Children/animals welcome. Littlehampton. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368467

MARY sincere, honest, sensitive, late 30's, slim, size 10 lingerie wearer, seeks sincere, slim female for friendship and fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376389

DIVORCED

lonely single mum, blue eyes, employed, OHAC, lots of interests, looking for someone to enjoy life with again. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370011

33YR old slim curly dark haired female with a GSOH, loves to spend time indoors and the simple things, WLTM similar male, 38-46yrs. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370057

I'M Gorgeous, lively and an outrageous flirt seeking a similar professional who thinks he can handle me, fun times guaranteed. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369223

STUNNING full figured blonde nurse, 32, funny and romantic, WLTM uncomplicated, reliable male, 50-65yrs for companionship and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369221

PETITE 37y old nurse with no ties looking for someone nice to spend some romantic time with, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370107

FIT female 39, enjoys good conversation, laughs and walking bare foot in the grass, WLTM similar sensual male for tactile friend/ship/more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372663

LISA 19, curly brown eyed brunnette looking for a caring male up to 67yrs who will appreciate and look after me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372663

LINDA slim green eyed brunnette WLTM independent, good looking, fun, outdoorsy type guy with no ties for being alone, looking old(er) male for mutual tlc. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374131

BLONDIE 5ft 5ins, medium build, blue eyes, looks good, cycling, holidaies, dining in/out, sees lovely female to share time with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374132

LISTEN up! Attractive female, WLTM into music, films, sport and theatre. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372053

KATHY attractive single mum 25, slim, dark hair/eyes, dressed, feet with being alone, looking old(er) male for mutual tlc. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372661

BLUE eyed redheaded, 5ft 5ins, medium build/curvy build, very feminine, looking for male friend for discreet meets and fun text. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372742

MARIE 46, likes theatre, cinema, seeing female for companionship and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375453

MICHAEL 44, friendly, fun, seeking fun female for casual meets. Portsmouth. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376321

JOHN 60, lonely, retired businnessman, seeking friend/ship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376107

JAMES professional, seeking female for fun times. Surrey. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375913

MALCOLM 65, 5ft 10ins, medium build, young outdoor fit, GSOH, ties, well travelled, N/S, tactile car, varied interests, seeks slim lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378774

MARK 48, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, short hair, good physique, fun, passionate, considerate, nice clothes/car, seeks fun female, 45-60 for meetings and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387718

MARK 46, likes theatre, cinema, seeing female for companionship and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375891

YOUNG 61y old Beckhill man, 5ft 8ins, likes cats, cooking, travel, seeks female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378752

TALL caring, considerate male, 52-55 no ties, sees female, 35-52 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375177

NAUGHTY lady 50 plus sought to enjoy naughty fun and friendship restaurants, seeking Worthy N/S, Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375083

ROBERT 55, self employed, N/S, seeks slim lady, 50-65 for friendship. East Sussex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387884

STEVE 36 funny, likes a laugh, fun times at the weekend, easygoing, looking for special female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377449

DAVID easygoing, personable 58, 6ft, slim, blue eyes, clean shaven, loyal, tactile, seeks female 30-55 for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388010

NIGEL 42, likes cinema, meals out, seeks similar female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376467

I'M the one! Young 60, GSOH, likes sea/countryside, short weekend breaks, dining in/out, phone now to hear more. Shepperton. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376455

TONY 31, caring, brown hair/eyes, seeks female, 21-45 share time with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376313

MAL 57, N/S, driver, tall, GSOH, truthful, honest, seeks female for LTR, any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376773

ROLAND 58, single, N/S, looking for female for friendship, companionship, nights in and out. West Sussex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387804

GARY 43, easygoing, seeking female, 36-48 for fun times, friendship and relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387812

KEVIN young, fun loving, free spirited, adventurous, male fit, healthy, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375077

MIKE black male seeks large mature white female for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387549

TONY 31, caring, brown hair/eyes, seeks female, 21-45 share time with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376313

MAL 57, N/S, driver, tall, GSOH, truthful, honest, seeks female for LTR, any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376773

ROLAND 58, single, N/S, looking for female for friendship, companionship, nights in and out. West Sussex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387804

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to connect and chat with other men look no further TXT: GAY601 to 65125 for 3 chat matches, fun and safe service. Go online - www.localgaydate.co.uk

MALE clean shaven, N/S, seeking younger play mate for fun and games. Chichester. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365507

BI male, 60, seeks male of similar age or younger. Lancing. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385388

NICK early 30's, passive, seeks older guy for no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387846

TONY 31, caring, brown hair/eyes, seeks female, 21-45 share time with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376313

MAL 57, N/S, driver, tall, GSOH, truthful, honest, seeks female for LTR, any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376773

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Enjoy this
relaxing
walk one
afternoon
SEE PAGE 46



**STAGE
READY**
Your guide to the
county's finest
entertainment
SEE PAGE 51

Kent Weekend



He's the voice

**From 80s choirboy
star to an adult
baritone,
Aled Jones's
career has
spanned the
vocal spectrum**

SEE PAGE 45

PLUS: Ancient text brings historic city to life in exhibition - **kent remembered p47** We highlight the best places to dine around the county - **eating out p48** Chevrolet's darling takes on a racy image in its new incarnation - **driving p67**



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WHEN Aled Jones sprang into the public eye in the early 80s, it was as a small angelic choirboy with a remarkably clear treble voice. Since then, he has adapted and survived and spent almost 30 years in showbusiness.

He brings his latest show An Evening With Aled Jones to Tunbridge Wells this month.

He said: "This show involves a mixture of songs and chat. I have been fortunate to have seen a lot of the world as I started in this business so young, so I want to share it. I will also be doing an Ask Aled section where the audience can ask me questions."

Jones's youthful talent led to performances in front of the Queen, the Pope and Charles and Diana. He sold more than six million albums before his voice broke at 16.

However, growing up did not seem to be too much of a trauma.

He said: "It was fine. I just spent time after my voice broke playing tennis and being normal."

After studying at the Royal Academy Of Music and Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, Jones resurrected his recording career as a baritone. He also appeared in musicals such as Joseph And His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and White Christmas.

His love of music has not diminished.

"It is so important to me and I love singing. I love it as much now as ever. I don't see myself as a celebrity – I like to think of myself as an entertainer," he said.

The 40-year-old has become a familiar presenter on radio and television. He is best known as one of the presenters on Songs Of Praise.

He said: "I love doing the show. It is great fun. I get to travel and meet fantastic people and I love being part of it."

Thanks to Songs Of Praise, the singer's popularity has grown worldwide. In recent years he has done extensive tours of Australia, where he has a large fan base.

In his latest show he will be singing songs from his new album Forever. The singer co-wrote the title song on the album, which includes many familiar favourites.

Jones said: "I have a few in the show that I really like, such as You Raise Me Up, and also Hushabye is great. I think the repertoire in this show will please everyone."

Jones is best known for his songs with a Christian element, but was he ever jealous of his more outrageous rock-star counterparts?

He said: "My musical taste is varied. I like most genres, but I am happy with my lot."

Join Aled for the evening

Ed Hill speaks to the man who turned his childhood talent for song into a lifelong career



Currently I listen to Elbow, a great band."

As well as presenting on TV, Jones does a number of radio shows, such as Friday Night Is Music Night on Radio 2 and The Choir, currently on Radio 3.

And he is drawing on his experience as a child star to help mentor the young singer Isabel Suckling, who was the youngest classical recording artist signed by Decca after a nationwide hunt to find a top choir girl.

He also has a regular show on Radio Wales. Jones was raised in the small Welsh-speaking community of Llandegfan in Anglesey.

He said: "I am very proud of being Welsh. Welsh is my first language and I go back there as often as my work permits. My parents are still there. You never leave Wales, really."

And what about the latest ways to find young talent? Jones's first success came from massive record sales of Walking In The Air. How does he

think he would have fared on The X Factor?

He said: "The industry has changed a lot. The world has. It is hard to say about The X Factor and me. I am not knocking anyone on X Factor. It is good to have a platform and they have found great singers like Rhodriyan."

■ **Aled Jones is at the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, on Wednesday, October 12. For tickets, call 01892 530613 or visit www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.**

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Jack and the Beanstalk

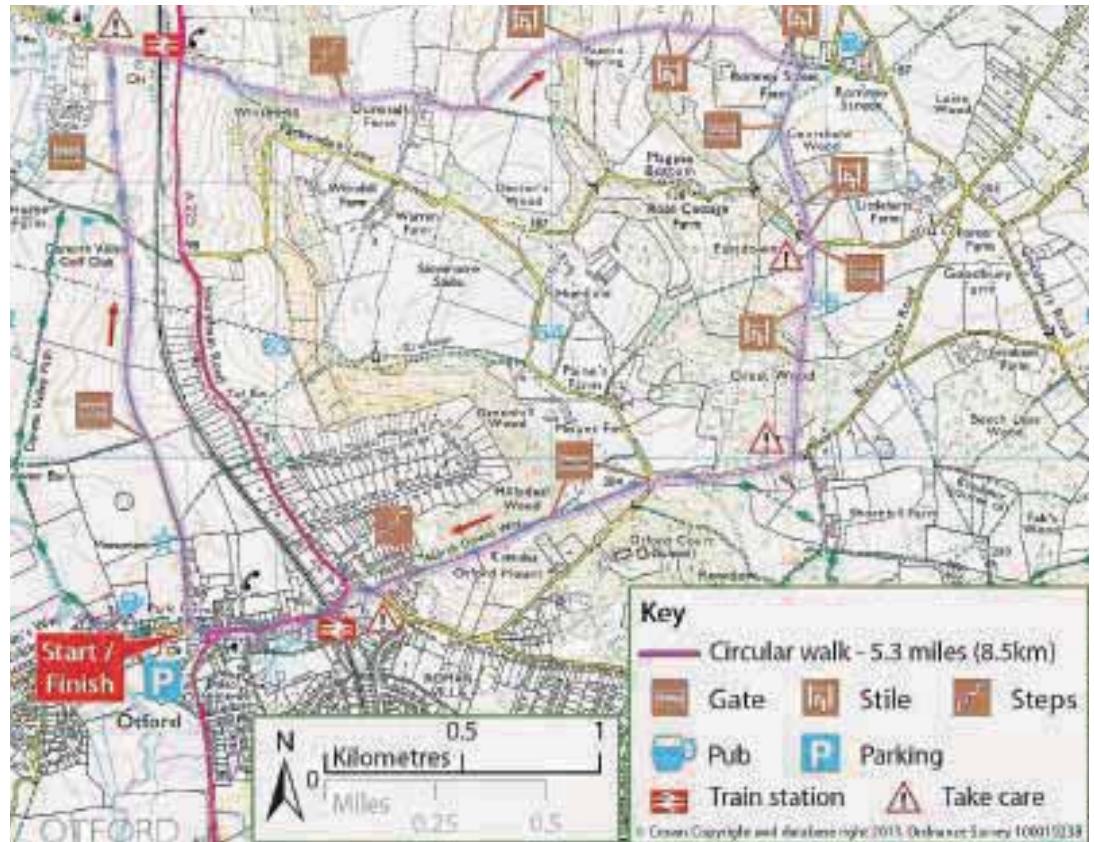
Fri 23 Dec - Sat 7 Jan

Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone 0844 847 1776

www.leascliffhall.co.uk



GETAWAY: A feature of this picturesque route is the varied wildlife, particularly the many species of butterflies that have made this part of the Kent Downs their home, from spring through to the autumn



Beginning and ending in the village of Otford, this five-mile walk has breathtaking views along the River Darent and the Kent Downs, offering up a few surprises along the way...

THIS peaceful and uplifting walk, starting and finishing in the village of Otford, along the Darent Valley Path, is an ideal way to spend an autumn afternoon. The village is on the River Darent, which flows northwards down the valley to the Thames from its source in the Kent Downs.

Notable landmarks are the Archbishop's Palace, the duck-pond roundabout and a scale model of the solar system that claims to be "the largest scale model in the world". Otford high street is also part of the old Pilgrims' Way and still features numerous medieval buildings.

As the sounds of village life disappear behind you, the route follows the banks of the River Darent towards Shoreham.

The Darent is a Kentish tributary of the River Thames and is about 25 miles in length, stretching from Westerham to Dartford.

The village of Shoreham is steeped in history and can provide a welcome break en

route, with four traditional independent pubs from which to choose.

Also in the village is the Shoreham Aircraft Museum, founded by volunteers in 1978 and dedicated to the airmen who fought in the skies over southern England in the Second World War.

The museum houses aviation relics excavated by the Shoreham Aircraft Preservation Society. These relics come from crashed RAF and Luftwaffe aircraft and are displayed alongside personal accounts of those involved.

Leaving Shoreham, you will pass the impressive churchyard of St Peter and St Paul and follow the route on an invigorating walk up the hillside towards the woodlands ahead. From here, picturesque glimpses of the valley below can be seen through the clearings.

Through mature woodland, the pathway continues before emerging on to an ancient trackway, with various viewing points taking in Otford and beyond to the Greensand Ridge of Sevenoaks.

At any time of year, this is an excellent place to pause and enjoy the tranquil atmosphere and the busy wildlife, including hundreds of colourful butterflies and wild flowers that thrive on the chalklands.

Butterflies are a feature of the Kent Downs from spring through to the autumn and the Adonis blue and chalkhill blue are completely dependant on the chalk grassland for their survival.

Other distinctive butterflies to look out for include the small blue, common blue, brown argus and marbled white.

Joining the famous North Downs Way National Trail for a short section, the route heads back towards Otford village.

While you're here, take some time to appreciate the fine medieval buildings or rest a while in one of the restaurants or traditional inns.

Location: Otford, TN14 5PG

Distance: 5 miles (8km), allow 3 hours

OS Explorer Map: 147

Terrain: steep, open farmland and hills

Stiles: 8

Gates: 6

Steps: Two sets

Step count: approx 10,000

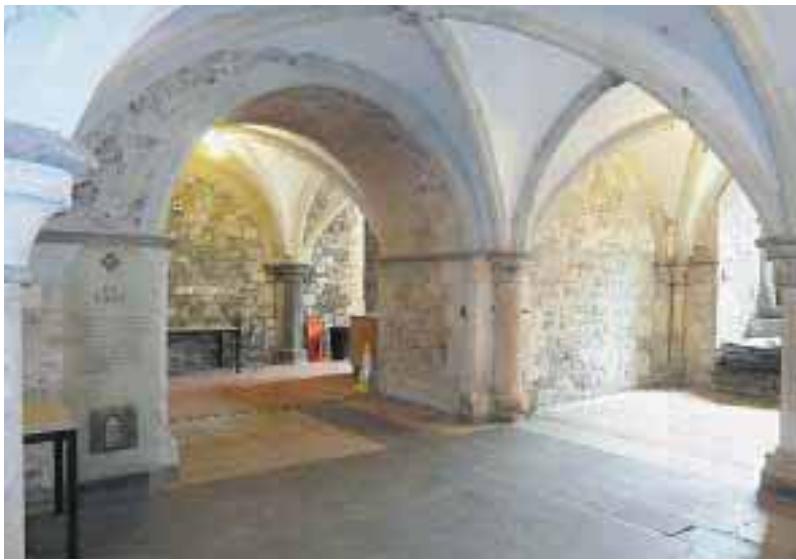
Parking: There is a free car park in Otford, opposite The Bull public house

Refreshments & facilities: There are public houses and restaurants in Otford and Shoreham

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LOTTERY WINNER: The crypt at Rochester Cathedral could soon be displaying important artefacts

Hidden treasures to emerge into the light

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

ANCIENT texts from Rochester Cathedral's library are closer to going on public display after a boost from the National Lottery.

The cathedral will receive £158,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards its Hidden Treasures, Fresh Expressions project.

Rochester Cathedral has nationally significant archives which are currently inaccessible to the public.

A jewel in its collection is the *Textus Roffensis* book. The volume is older, and according to some experts, even more significant than the Magna Carta.

The book is currently in the possession of Medway council at its studies centre.

Written by a scribe in around 1122 the *Textus Roffensis* or 'Book of the Church of Rochester through Bishop Ernulf' is actually two books combined.

The first part deals with the ancient Anglo Saxon laws described by King Ethelbert of Kent (who lived around the year 600).

It was written by a monk to mark coronation of Henry I and is thought to be one of the earliest examples of written English.

The second part is the earliest registry records of Rochester Cathedral. The two parts were bound together around the year 1300.

The *Textus Roffensis* has had a chequered history down the years. It has survived several attempts to steal it and at one time it was immersed in the



HISTORIC MANUSCRIPT: The ancient *Textus Roffensis* book

River Medway for a few hours when a ship it was being transported on sank.

The plan is to put the *Textus Roffensis* on display in the crypt and Chapter Library of the cathedral along with other treasures in the church's archive.

A cathedral spokesman said: "Rochester Cathedral believes in the ability of people to bring the cathedral's history alive through inventive activities and inspiring events."

"We are passionate about working in partnership, connecting with and working alongside individuals and communities."

"Through a specifically devised programme we hope not only to preserve the cathedral's heritage but encourage people to discover and explore the wonders of this unique building and its relevance for today."

The cathedral attracts 130,000 visitors each year.

meets Heritage Lottery Fund criteria for funding and it believes the project has potential to deliver high-quality benefits and value for money.

The application was in competition with other supportable projects, so a first-round pass is an endorsement of outline proposals.

The project now has up to two years to submit fully developed proposal to compete for a full award.

Stuart McLeod, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund for the South East, said: "The Heritage Lottery Fund is pleased to be able to support these exciting plans to revive Rochester Cathedral and help bring the cathedral's vision a step closer to reality."

Rochester Cathedral is a heritage treasure, and this 'green light' means these proposals can now be further developed to ensure it is preserved for future generations to explore and enjoy."

Rochester is the second oldest cathedral in the country, and has an impressive late Norman nave.

It has been a centre for prayer for more than 1,400 years and has numerous hidden treasures.

Acting Dean Philip Hesketh, said: "This is simply fantastic news: a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to bring the *Textus Roffensis* home and reveal more of the cathedral's hidden treasures."

The cathedral attracts 130,000 visitors each year.

■ For news and sport see www.yourmedway.co.uk.

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DICKENS WORLD EVENTS



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Ludwig Van Beethoven

Friday 14th October

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BRITANNIA THEATRE EVENTS

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Friday 4th November

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Arrival of Father Christmas
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Christmas Jongleurs Special

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Mr Poppers Penguins (PG)
Shark Night 3D (15)
The Debt (15)
The Inbetweeners (15) Digital
The Smurfs 2D (U)
The Smurfs 3D (U)

For times and films, please call the film line on 0871 22 44 007 or visit www.odeon.co.uk

For all Dickens World information and online bookings, go to www.dickensworld.co.uk or call 01634 890421



Tinker, Taylor, Soldier, Spy (15)
Warrior (12A)
What's Your Number (15)
ODEON KIDS
Dairy of a Wimpy Kid 2 (U)
SENIOR SCREEN
X-Men: First Class (12A)
NEWBIES
Abduction (12A)
THE OTHER CINEMA
The Tree of Life (12A)



The fire is still burning bright in old village pub

IN the heart of the tree-lined village of Horsmonden is the unusually-named Gun And Spitroast, a 16th-century coaching inn.

It boasts one of the few remaining inglenook spitroasts in the country, enabling beef, pork, ham or venison to be roasted slowly over a large apple-log fire.

There is the heart-warming bar menu with all the home-made pub favourites and a list of daily specials, or for the smaller tummy there's the fantastic-value lunchtime menu. The Gun And Spitroast is that rarity – a quintessentially English country pub with roaring log-fires in winter and a fragrant patio rose garden for the summer. It is truly an eatery for all seasons.

Landlord Jeremy Springett described the pub: "[it's] in a lovely and friendly village. Choice of menu is a priority at the pub, with ambience, staff and service, location and value for money all important as well.

"Old English charm, roaring log-fires and an oak-beamed restaurant is what we offer. Our chef uses local ingredients and is always looking for old English recipes such as lovage soup and ham hocks in a mustard sauce."

The pub is open from 11.30am to 11pm Monday to Saturday and on Sunday from midday to 10.30pm.

**■ The Gun and Spitroast
The Heath, Horsmonden,
Sevenoaks TN12 8HT
Telephone: 01892 722925
Website: www.gunandspitroast.co.uk**

CHEF RECOMMENDS

SEE HO: Telephone 01474 822386

STARTER: Calamari

MAIN: Sirloin steak

DESSERT: Apple pie and custard

TIGER MOTH: Telephone 01634 861 653

STARTER: Butterly breaded king prawns, served with a dressed salad garnish and sweet chilli dipping sauce

MAIN: Italian-style chicken; two breaded chicken breast fillets topped with tomato and basil sauce and cheddar cheese, served with chips, grilled tomato and peas

DESSERT: Tuckshop ice-cream cake; chocolate brownie with layers of chocolate-flavour mousse and dairy clotted-cream-flavour ice-cream topped with tuck-shop classic treats

GUN AND SPITROAST: Telephone 01892 722925

STARTER: Seasoned whitebait with lemon crème fraîche

MAIN: Spit-roasted venison with a sweet-potato-and-leek mash served with balsamic and redcurrant jus, garnished with baby asparagus

DESSERT: Local Bramley apple tart tartan

THE PLOUGH INN: Telephone 01795 521348

STARTER: Chicken liver parfait

MAIN: Six-ounce fillet steak with home-made chunky chips, creamy mushroom sauce and vegetables

DESSERT: Strawberry cheesecake



ITS ALL FUN AND GAMES:
The Tiger Moth pub in Chatham has something to entertain its customers every night of the week, be it watching sport in 3D TV, music, dancing, food or poker

Be drawn to Tiger Moth's friendly atmosphere any day of the week

THERE is entertainment available every night at the Tiger Moth in Chatham.

This large family pub has recently had an extensive refurbishment and the management say they are very proud of the results.

Events staged at the Tiger Moth include quiz nights and music and curry nights. Monday evening is poker night, at which beginners are always welcome. The Moth also has a television around every corner,

with six screens installed specially for big sporting events. You can even watch the action outside and in 3D with the glasses provided for customers.

On the food front, visitors can expect the usual pub favourites like fish and chips, rump steaks and Sunday roasts. There are also lighter snacks like sandwiches and baguettes.

Vegetarian customers are well catered for, with options such as vegetable jalfrezi, vegetable burri-

tos, spicy beanburger and cheese-and-potato pie.

Landlord Chris Hall, who has been at the pub for almost four years, said: "We have a range of food offers and entertainment and show all of the important sports events. There is always a good atmosphere here and the team are very friendly and welcoming."

"On Friday nights we like to have a bit of a party, with music and a bit of dancing. Saturday night we have

live music from different acts each week. On the first Sunday of every month we have a music quiz."

The Tiger Moth is open Monday-Saturday 9am-11pm and Sunday 9am-10.30pm. Breakfast is served every day from 9am-noon; full menu from noon-9.30pm or 9pm on Sundays. The pub has a large car park.

**■ Tiger Moth, Highview Drive, Chatham ME5 9UJ
Telephone: 01634 861 653
Website: www.realpubco.com**

Home-made dishes a See Ho speciality

THE See Ho is a friendly, busy country pub that serves great beers and a vast range of home-prepared dishes.

Early-bird specials, dinners, Sunday roasts and fresh fish are all items to have attracted customers to the menu, which is varied and uses as much local produce as possible to keep dishes fresh.

Situated just off the M2, it's perfect for a drink and dinner after shopping at Bluewater.

It is also near lovely stretches of countryside and a park so is ideal for walkers.

Small or large groups are all catered for and the pub is particularly popular with hikers, who enjoy the excellent local landscape.

The pub regularly takes bookings for tables for up to 30 walkers to eat and drink after long stretches of enjoying the Kent countryside, which is some of the finest in the whole of



menu include home-made rabbit pie, as well as steak-in-ale pie. Food is cooked to perfection and a two-meals-for-£10 special is also available. All dishes are home-made.

The varied menu includes meatloaf mash with fresh vegetables; fishcakes, chips and peas; and various pasties with chips and peas or beans.

All of the dishes are complemented by excellent beers and wines, which the staff ensure are kept perfectly.

Fresh food at very reasonable prices is the key to the success of the venue. The See Ho can boast a large and loyal following both locally and further afield.

**■ The See Ho
Pear Tree Lane, Shorne DA12 3JX
Telephone: 01474 822386
Email: chalkeysseeho@aol.com**

southern England.

The See Ho is open from 11am-3pm and 6pm-11pm each day. Current top-sellers on the



Red Lion Hernhill

Why here...

Located in the picturesque village of Hernhill, there is a warm, festive atmosphere, with quality home-cooked food. Join in for mulled wine and a varied selection of beers and real ales.

On the menu...

Three-course traditional Christmas menu at £24.95 per person – book 10 or more during December and the organiser eats for free! Please visit the website for the full menu.

How to book...

Crockham Lane, Hernhill, Faversham ME13 9JR phone: 01227 751207 website: www.theredlion.org

Make sure you get it right for a great occasion

THREE varieties of meat, sprouts, carrots, cranberry sauce, pigs in blankets, crackers and Christmas ale... all are key components needed to make the perfect festive feast.

But getting away from the Kent-made fruity Christmas pudding, or the locally-sourced vegetables, or even the Kentish ale, one of the most important factors that is sometimes forgotten about is the venue.

Party season is here and with less than three months until that rotund, red-suit-wearing, jolly fella slides down our chimney, or enters through the patio doors in some cases, the perfect venue to hold a Christmas feast just has to be found.

Whether it be a family gathering, a work do, or even just a romantic meal with a loved

one, you simply must make the right choice.

Tables and dates get booked up fast in Kent, so it is wise to start getting an idea of numbers and thinking of the festive feast you want to create.

The county's eateries offer a range of experiences, from simplistic, smooth and stylish in our city gastro pubs to the old beams, open fireplace and cosy atmosphere of our inns by the village green.

There is a whole range of restaurants offering festive-meal packages, some with live entertainment that will take the celebrations long into the night.

From places serving five-course lunches offering turkey, cranberries, roasted vegetables and all the trimmings, to the coastal eatery's catch of the day, Kent has something to suit surely anyone's taste. Here are six of the best.



Waterfront Dover Marina

Why here...

The Waterfront Restaurant, with beautiful sea views and a warm welcome, is the perfect place to celebrate Christmas. Lunch, dinner and party nights are held throughout the festive season.

On the menu...

The restaurant offers Christmas menus using the best of local ingredients. The international chefs provide a mix of classical festive dishes with a stylish modern touch.

How to book...

Best Western Dover Marina Hotel and Spa, Waterloo Crescent, Dover CT17 9BP; phone: 01304 203633; email: reservations@dovermarinahotel.co.uk



The Olive Tree Ramada Dover

Why here...

With both the Grand Marquee and Olive Tree restaurant available for Christmas parties, there is no better way to celebrate the festive period with family and friends. Festive Fayre lunches include a superb three-course meal with all the Christmas trimmings, while party nights offer all this, plus a disco until midnight. Bookings are also being taken for Christmas Day lunch and

the fabulous New Year's Eve celebrations.

On the menu...

Christmas Fayre lunches and party nights offer a three-course meal, with mains served from the buffet, while the ever-popular Christmas Day lunch is a four-course meal with a choice of six main-course options available from the buffet.

How to book...

Ramada Hotel Dover, Singledge Lane, Whitfield, Dover CT16 3EL; phone: 01304 821230; email: events@ramadadover.co.uk

See Ho Shorne

Why here...

The See Ho bar and restaurant is in a beautiful rural location and very popular with walkers. It is close to Shorne Country Park and ideal for freshly-prepared lunches and dinners.

On the menu...

Fresh fish is prepared daily and ingredients are sourced locally. Homemade pies, curries and Italian dishes are highly popular. Suffice to say, an excellent Christmas menu is being prepared.

How to book...

Pear Tree Lane, Shorne, Gravesend DA12 3JX phone: 01474 822386 web: www.seeoho.com



Comfort Inn Ramsgate

Why here...

The Comfort Inn at Ramsgate offers a menu of traditional home-cooked food, as well as a great atmosphere and friendly staff. Why not continue into the evening and stay the night?

On the menu...

The Christmas party nights are on Saturday, December 3, with Absolute Abba; Saturday, December 10, with Rory Jackson (Michael Jackson tribute act), and Saturday, December 17, with the Scott Elvis tribute act. These party nights include a three-course meal and entertainment.

How to book...

Island Road, Sturry, Canterbury CT2 0EZ phone: 01227 711774 web: spicemasterrestaurant.com

Spicemaster Sturry

Why here...

The Spicemaster in Sturry is one of the Canterbury area's largest restaurants offering regular live-entertainment nights. The expert chefs offer authentic Bangladeshi and Indian cuisine of excellence. With a friendly service and an extensive menu on offer, you are sure to be in for a treat with family, friends or work colleagues during the festive period.

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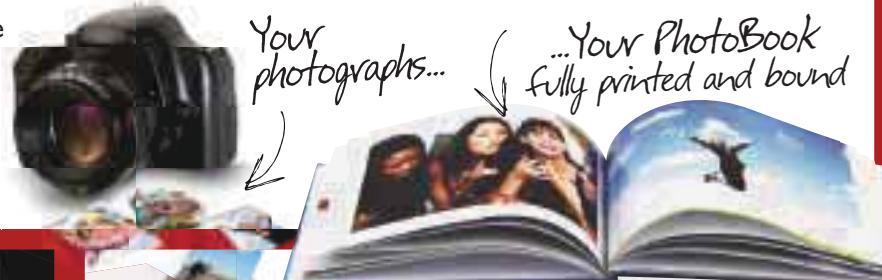
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Gospel choir New singers are sought

**Barton Evangelical Church,
Canterbury**
Thursday nights at 7.30pm
www.rogc.co.uk

A SINGING troupe in Canterbury has set up a community-based gospel choir and is looking for new members. The Reach Out Gospel Choir practises at Barton Evangelical Church on Thursday nights and is offering free taster sessions. No matter what level of singer, everyone is welcome and there will be no auditions. The group meets once a week to sing soulful arrangements including traditional spiritual songs as well as R&B, funk and pop. The choir will also be practising for large events at which they will be appearing. Excerpts from its latest concert are available on its website at www.rogc.co.uk.



Black-history celebrations Cultural focus

Locations across Medway
Throughout October
01634 306000
www.medway.gov.uk

EVENTS are taking place across Medway in October to celebrate Black History Month. The annual festival, which is held nationally, celebrates the diverse cultures and traditions that have made the UK the multicultural society it is. In Medway, celebrations will include live music, theatrical story-telling, circus tricks and specialist food events.

To start things off, there will be a launch event at the Pilkington Building, Medway Campus, University of Kent, on Tuesday, October 14, when members of the county's youth parliament will host a celebration of art, dance, poetry and fashion. There will also be music and dance at Fort Pitt Grammar School and the Medway Hindu Community Centre. Also throughout the month there will be a celebration of African art at The Brook Theatre in Chatham. Elsewhere, on Saturday, October 22, there are Tales From The Caribbean And Africa at Rochester Library.

Soap stars top the panto bill Extra shows

Hazlitt Arts Centre, Maidstone
December 3 to January 15
01622 758611
www.maidstonepanto.co.uk

THE line-up for this year's Maidstone pantomime has been revealed, with Holby City and reality TV star Jeremy Edwards taking the lead role in Aladdin. The Hazlitt Theatre will see

the same creative team that produced last year's record-breaking panto Beauty And The Beast brought back together to create another theatrical spectacular. Producer Gary Telfer said: "We're really looking forward to producing Aladdin this year, which has to be the most magical pantomime of all. "It's got a great cast of TV stars and an amazing live band. We know how popular the Hazlitt pantomime was last year – in fact, most of the shows sold out, so we've added an extra week this time and can't wait to be in Maidstone for Christmas."

There will be a massive 85 action-packed performances, including Sapphire Elia, who plays Mia Macey in Emmerdale, and Gary Damer, who plays Lenny from CBBC's Hotel Trubble. Director Rob Forknall said: "It's going to be great fun for all the family. Ever since Disney sprinkled their magic touch on the story, it's become a firm favourite with young and old alike. "We know how popular the pantomime has become over the last few years in Maidstone and we can't wait to get started with this production". Tickets are on sale now.



King Lear Shakespeare at the Wells

**Trinity Theatre,
Tunbridge Wells**
Tue to Sun, October 18-23
www.trinitytheatre.net

THIS year the Trinity Theatre has been sponsored by the Royal Shakespeare Company's Open Stages scheme, which supports amateur production teams performing Shakespeare. The first play that will be undertaken is King Lear, which sees an ageing father give away all his property to his children, who then find housing him a problem and squabble among themselves. With madness setting in, the king loses his grip on reality and is forced to examine the consequences of power, pride and love.

A Trinity spokesman said: "We feel we can do great



justice to this production, with professional director Fran Gilpin of Glydebourne and opera by definition, together with some of our finest actors, including Michael Elliott, a very experienced actor who has performed with the National Theatre, in the lead." The cast also includes Matt Penfold and Sam Cook (*What The Butler Saw*), Kris Robertson (*Accidental Death Of An Anarchist*) and Alison Fielding (*Ruth Rendell Mysteries* and *Casualty*).



Folk makes it into the light Kate Rusby

**Assembly Hall Theatre,
Tunbridge Wells**
Thursday, October 27
assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk

ONE of the defining voices of contemporary English folk music, Kate Rusby, is heading to Tunbridge Wells in October. With exquisite interpretations of traditional songs, as well as her own tunes, Rusby has won an audience that reaches beyond the genre, a rare achievement for a folk artist. In November 2010, she released her new album, *Make The Light*, her first record of solely her own music. This release has been well received by critics and fans

alike and features Rusby's all-new band, who have been drawn from the cream of Britain's folk instrumentalists. Accompanied by these players, Rusby will tour in 2011 performing songs from *Make The Light*, together with much-loved favourites chosen from across her entire back catalogue.

Rusby's singing and her new band's support ensure that audiences will be treated to a remarkable concert experience.

The combination of original songs and working with new musicians has been a refreshing and rewarding experience for the artist. She said: "Much has happened since the last album was released – and mainly good things! "So *Make The Light* reflects that – mainly songs of hope and positivity."

Calendar Girls



by Tim Firth



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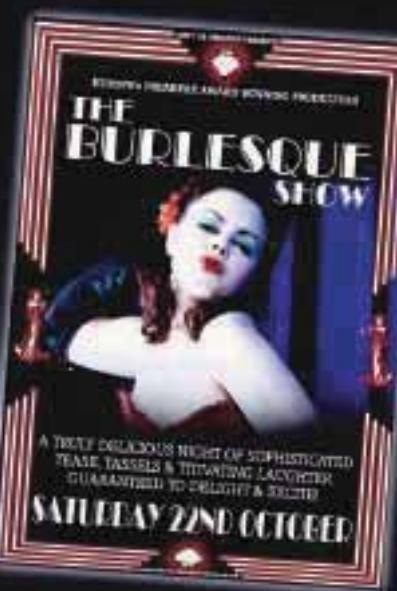
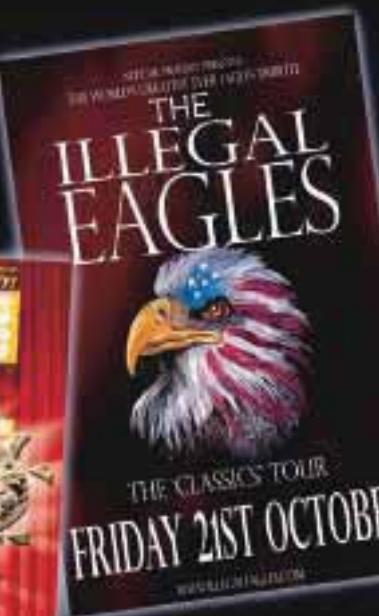
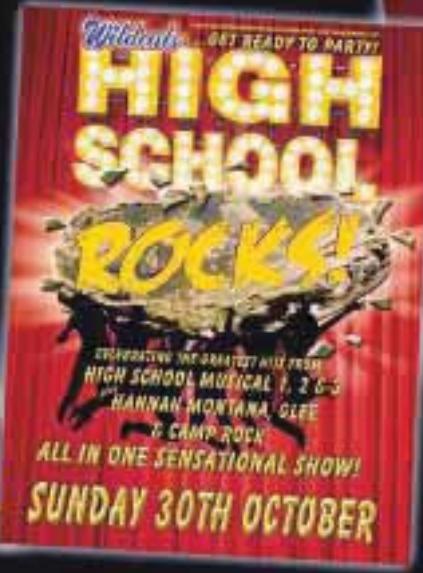
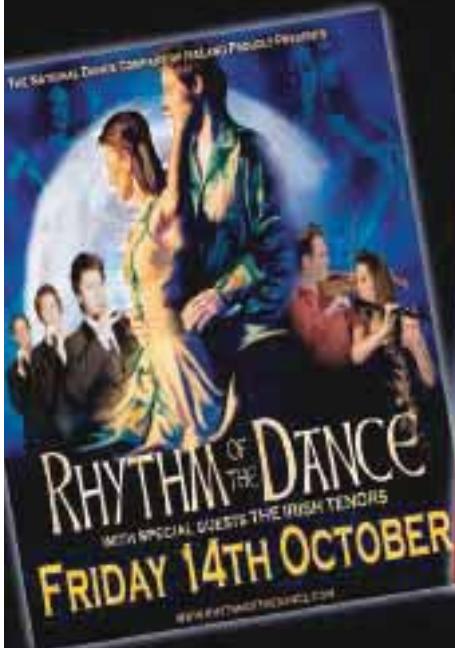
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Herbal teas are great for autumn

AS the warm summer days fade away and become just a memory, so energy levels can drop off and what were once pleasures when it comes to looking and feeling healthy become chores.

But making sure you are at your best does not have to go down with the sun – with a little attention you can spring into the season with the vibrancy of the orange and red leaves currently falling from the trees.

Because of the cold and sometimes dry nature of autumn, the key to good

health is to keep lubricated and warm. Usually we tend to bathe and then use moisturisers, but a tip for the colder period is to reverse that order.

When you oil the body before showering, the hot water further opens the pores of your skin and drives the oil deeper into the tissues.

If you use a light natural soap, you will find that your body remains very lightly oiled after showering – not enough to stain clothes or feel strange, but enough to give further lubrication and protection throughout the day.

In autumn, nuts are naturally in season and other seasonally-appropriate foods include pumpkins – which are always popular, thanks to their Halloween connections.

Warm herbal teas with ginger, cinnamon, cloves or cardamom are all good autumn balancing beverages.

Walking through autumn leaves, yoga and meditation are the perfect seasonal activities – a good brisk walk is one of the best ways to invigorate yourself and enjoy some of the beautiful scenery for which this time of year is justly famous.



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- Return rail travel to Nice
- 1 night hotel B&B in Lille or Paris
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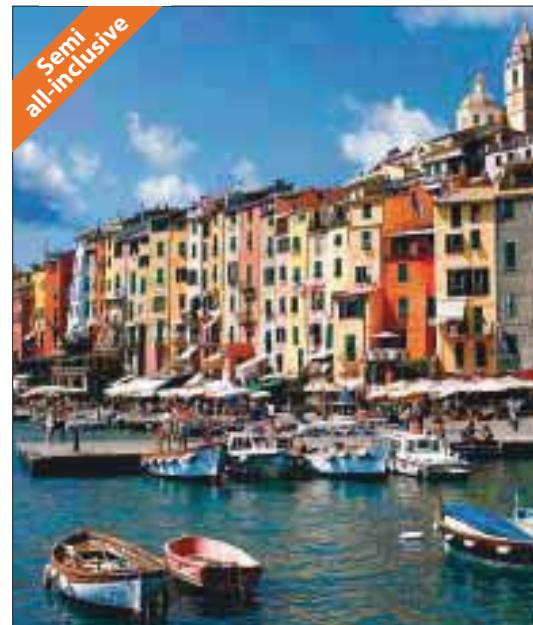
From £999pp

Departs: 13 April (10 days)
14 May & 17 Sept, 2012 (9 days)

On our journey of discovery to Italy, experience the French TGV train outbound and overnight train with private cabin and Eurostar home - Florence to London with just 1 train change.

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Champagne Check-in at St Pancras
- Rail travel to Nice - afternoon departure
- 1 night hotel B&B in Paris or Lille outbound
- All transfers abroad



- 6 or 7 nights in Marina di Pietrasanta, Italy - half board plus Free bar 6pm to 10pm nightly
- Visits to Lucca, Pisa, Florence, Portovenere, San Gimignano & Elba on 10-day April departure only
- Sleeper train and Eurostar home to London
- All transfers abroad



4-star New Year at Honiley Court Hotel, Warwick

Self drive, 2 nights half board

Quote HN12-KOS

£145pp

Arrive 30 Dec or 31 Dec, 2011

The charming Brook Honiley Court Hotel is situated in a peaceful location in the rural village of Honiley, in Warwickshire.

Dating back to the 16th century, the hotel was originally a farmhouse which became a pub which is now incorporated into

the hotel, conserving features of the original building and maintaining the original character.

The Boot Restaurant provides a modern dining experience in these traditional surroundings and is popular with locals and guests alike.

All bedrooms are spacious and comfortable and have en suite bathroom, tea/coffee making facilities, trouser press, flatscreen television, radio, hairdryer, iron & ironing board.

INCLUDED:

- En-suite accommodation
- Afternoon tea on arrival (30 Dec only)
- 2 breakfasts & 2 dinners - including a New Year's Eve dinner-dance & disco & New Year's Day brunch



Carry on New Year at the 4-star London International Hotel

2 nights half board

Quote LC1-KOS

£119pp

January 2 to 4, 2012

Extend the New Year celebration at the 4-star Britannia London International Hotel, situated on the water's edge of the London Docklands with superb views of the London skyline. You will enjoy dinner and breakfast

each day, a 99p bar and entertainment both evenings.

The Canary Wharf Health Club & Gym is a great way to keep in shape or relax. This fully equipped Leisure Club offers features a swimming pool, sauna and state of the art gym (£2.50 per day payable at the hotel).

All bedrooms have an en suite bathroom with bath and shower, TV, hairdryer and direct-dial phone.

The hotel is located outside the congestion charge zone.

INCLUDED:

- En-suite accommodation
- 99p bar from 7pm to 11pm both evenings for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- 2 dinners & 2 breakfasts
- Entertainment

The great British weather has always been good at keeping us on our toes – after a wet and dreary summer, October brought a mini heatwave and now we're predicted snow, but whatever the skies throw at us next a trip to Heat Design is sure to help you keep prepared and – most importantly – warm this winter



WITH another cold winter on the horizon and rising gas prices, there has never been a better time to consider your heating options.

With friendly, passionate and independent advice, Heat Design in Canterbury has everything you need to get your family ready for the winter.

Last year saw an unprecedented winter, with trains grinding to a halt and cars being abandoned on the road. The conditions were so severe that they apparently slowed down the whole UK economy, preventing economic growth forecasts from being accurate.

The Exacta independent weather group predicted that we could be seeing the same sort of conditions this year, with moderate snowfall beginning as early as this month. Heat Design is here to get you ready.

Heat Design has a huge range of wood stoves and gas fires, firewood and range cookers. Its on-site heating engineer is a member of the Rangemaster Guild and on hand to discuss improving the heating of your home.

Regardless of the size of the project, Heat Design can help out... from adding a wood stove to your hot-water system, to installing a municipal wood-chip boiler to heat a block of houses. Heat Design's leading-edge provision of solar thermal technology offers an innovative and environmentally-friendly option for heating hot water.

As a way of heating your home, the humble wood stove has come on a long way. Modern models are highly efficient, safe and beautifully designed. Clean-air technology allows many wood stoves to be used in a smoke-control area while reducing their environmental impact through advanced engineering to a minimum.

The efficiency of the burn means lower fuel costs and more heating for your money. From futuristic modern design to the traditional wood stove, Heat Design stocks hundreds of models from leading brands, catering to every taste: Chesney's, Hunter, Euroheat, Barbas, Dovre, Yeoman, Stovax, Rais and Woodwarm.

At the Heat Design showroom in Roper Close, Canterbury, you can see the wood stoves at work. Larger models can also heat hot water.

Heat Design also stocks a range of the very latest gas fuel-efficient fires from Gazco and Bellfires. If gas is your preference, these are a great way to keep costs down.

Range cookers can also provide heating. Though often used for cooking, range cookers from Rayburn and Esse allow you to plug them directly into a hot-water system.

There are plenty of other inventive heating ideas. Solar thermal, for example, allows the positioning of discreet panels to harvest the natural energy of the sun, converting it into hot running water.

Biomass boilers utilise renewable fuels to heat your home and provide running hot water; the flexibility of this concept allows it to be used in homes or businesses large or small.

However you decide to keep warm this winter, Heat Design is here to help.

■ Find Heat Design at Roper Close, off Roper Road, Canterbury CT2 7EP; phone 01227 457643 or visit heatdesignkent.co.uk. Opening times: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 10am-4pm.



■ Cooking with a Rayburn is a joy. Next Saturday, October 15, Rayburn and AGA chef Mandy Gooden will be at Heat Design demonstrating just how much you can get out of cooking on a Rayburn.



She'll be handing out food straight from the oven and putting the range cooker through its paces.

A heating engineer will also be on hand to show you how to incorporate a Rayburn into your home.

Heat Design is also offering up to 50 per cent off selected cookware and 15 per cent off other cookware items not already discounted. This includes branded ranges from AGA and Rangemaster.

■ Christmas is just around the corner.

From mulled wine to mince pies to full Christmas dinner, on Tuesday, November 15, 'Lady AGA' Mandy Gooden will be showing how to make your AGA into a factory of delicious festive cheer.

There'll be plenty of free hot food samples to eat and your chance to put your questions to a professional who knows the AGA inside and out.

Heat Design will also be offering 15 per cent off all cookware and cook books – perfect for that stocking-filler for the keen chef.

■ **This event is expected to reach capacity, so book early to avoid disappointment by calling 01227 457643, or go online to <http://bit.ly/agaxmas>**



■ When the snow falls, there's nothing better than being snug and warm in your own home. Whether you want a new fire to warm you, or a cooker to help you prepare winter's warming dishes, Heat Design has something to suit every taste.

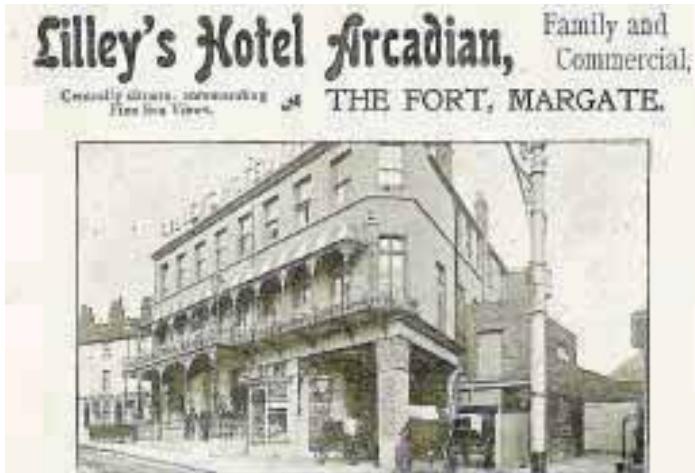
Conversion gives iconic hotel a new lease of life

THE seascape views that inspired JMW Turner to declare "these are the loveliest skies in all Europe", combined with the release of rental apartments in one of Margate's grandest seafront buildings, is giving a new generation the chance to sample the town's cultural revival.

Standing just above the £17 million Turner Contemporary gallery, The Arcadian building enjoys the same elevated panoramas of Margate's famous seascape.

"You can see why Turner was so captivated by this coastline and why it inspired him to paint his masterpieces," said Geoffrey Berger, who is developing The Arcadian. "The light constantly changes and the views stretch for miles."

The Arcadian, until recently a notorious eyesore, is a conversion comprising 14 one- and two-bedroom apartments. Built in the late 1800s, it was originally Lilley's Hotel Arcadian, a 19th-century bolt-hole for well-to-do Victorians leaving smog-ridden London for Thanet's fresh sea air.



Its character and history is preserved by the development's careful replica of The Arcadian's wrought-iron balcony and hotel signage.

Inside, the apartments are spacious, with Victorian high ceilings and panoramic windows. The internal finish includes hand-fitted kitchens and solid-wood worktops, while some apartments have private balconies and all are Sky+ ready.

The seafront and Margate's golden main sands are a short stroll down Fort Hill and the historic Old Town is to the left. In summer, this Continental-style piazza hosts a growing calendar of

events, including a jazz festival in July.

Furnished or unfurnished, one-bedroom apartments start at £450 pcm, with two-bedroom apartments from £550 pcm.

Since 2010, high-speed train services from London St Pancras make the city-to-coast commute 90 minutes and, together with the opening of the Turner Contemporary, are rejuvenating the town.

Boutiques, private galleries and cafés opening in the Old Town quarter have boosted tourism, while plans to reopen Dreamland as the UK's first heritage theme park in 2013 will see the town gain a second major attraction.

A quicker way to move into your dream home

HOME-HUNTERS who want to move but are struggling to sell their home can take advantage of Taylor Wimpey's 48 Hours Weekend at Leybourne Chase.

This weekend, October 8-9, house-hunters are being offered the chance to sell their old property and secure a new home in just 48 hours at the builder's flagship development near West Malling.

Visitors will be met by a team of experts who can help them part-exchange their property in just two days, subject to terms and conditions.

The scheme is designed to help make moving to a new home easier and stress-free, and will be available on a selection of homes at Leybourne Chase.

Fiona Creed, of Taylor Wimpey, said: "Our 48 Hours Weekend is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity

for house-hunters to buy a new home and sell their old one just two days after agreeing a part-exchange price – so they could find themselves owning their dream home much sooner than they might otherwise have expected.

"Customers who fear it will take forever to sell their home can book an appointment to attend our 48 Hours Weekend at Leybourne Chase and find out how quickly they could move to their dream home."

Part-exchange customers receive an agreed price for their existing property, based on the average of independent valuations.

The scheme is available with selected family-sized properties at Leybourne Chase, where three-bedroom homes are priced from £249,995 and four-bedroom detached homes are available from £399,995.

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Headcorn, Kent **Guide Price £235,000**

Building plot with planning for the erection of a detached 2 storey dwelling (approx. 2,000 sq ft) with all matters reserved



Rye, East Sussex **Guide Price £150,000**

Detached 2 bedroom Victorian house with garden in need of total refurbishment



West Malling, Kent **Guide Price £400,000**

Single building plot with planning consent for a 2,700 sq ft house set in grounds approaching 0.5 acres



Broadstairs, Kent **Guide Price £POA**

Property with sea views comprising ground floor flat for refurbishment, with planning to separate 1st and 2nd floors and planning to extend to the side



Walmer, Kent **Guide Price £100,000**

Single plot available subject to planning – available with existing property with guide price of £450,000



Tonbridge, Kent **Guide Price £425,000**

Site with planning for a pair of 3 bed semi detached houses and a detached 3 bed house backing onto the river Medway



Allhallows, Kent **Offers Invited**

Site available subject to the renewal of planning for 5 detached houses backing onto countryside



Lamberhurst Quarter, Kent **Guide Price £200,000**

A fine detached 6 bay period barn with planning consent for conversion to a 3,000 sq ft residential dwelling



Brenchley, Kent **Guide Price £595,000**

Single plot for a detached house of approx. 3,500 sq ft set in 1 acre with stunning views over open countryside



Wilmington, Kent **Guide Price £500,000**

Single plot of approx. 0.25 acre with planning for a detached 5 bedroom house of approx. 3,000 sq ft plus loft style room



Sandhurst, Kent **Guide Price £600,000**

Site with planning permission for two detached 5 bedroom houses of approx. 2,400 sq ft each – available separately at £300,000 for each plot



Brookland, Kent **Offers Invited**

Site with planning permission for 2 x 4 and 2 x 3 bedroom detached houses

Activity for all the family at Kings Hill

With cricket on the green and walks in the nature park, Kings Hill is now an established community like a traditional English village. Its many different homes are supported by a balanced mix of facilities - sports clubs, shops, doctors and schools. Its 323 hectares (800 acres) are landscaped and a network of thoughtfully designed footpaths, cycle ways and 'green walks' links the homes with all the facilities so encouraging walking and cycling.

Kings Hill includes 150 acres of former farmland which already includes Warren Woods nature park with woodland walks and trails, and is planned also to include sports pitches and an area of allotments for residents. Also at Kings Hill there is a David



ADVERTISING FEATURE

Lloyd Leisure racquets, health and fitness club, together with a new cricket ground and pavilion. These facilities join Kings Hill's long-established 18-hole golf course, which was designed to PGA championship standard and offers an enjoyable challenge to all golfers. Set in over 200 acres of undulating terrain, it features large areas of protected heath and ancient woodland.

Coming home to Kings Hill is a comfortable experience with its sensitive landscaping, well-managed community and expanding amenities. Survey results show that 40% of Kings Hill residents have moved to the village because it offers greater space and a pleasant, clean environment. They also find it to be safe, friendly and family-oriented with easy access to its schools, restaurants and shops. Just a short walk or cycle ride reaches the heart of Kings Hill. Focused around pedestrian friendly squares and streets, Liberty Square is Kings Hill's retail and social amenity area providing shopping, eating out and medical facilities.

Development plans will see Waitrose open a large 9,000 sq ft convenience store in time for Christmas 2011 and a total of 20,000 sq ft of new retail space, together with the restoration of the control tower and new landscaping providing plenty of open space for relaxation.

Sculpture is a major feature of Kings Hill, with many artworks now installed as public art around the village. Innovative pieces delight both the village centre and nestle happily in the backwaters of some of the housing areas. The sculpture works as part of the living environment and encourages residents to develop a pride in their surroundings and their village. Indeed, at Kings Hill such attention to the soft and social infrastructure of life has resulted in international surveyors, CB Richard Ellis, naming it as the number one example, for a large new



community, of 'placemaking' in the country.

Residents wishing to live at Kings Hill can choose between quality traditional and highly contemporary homes being built by leading house builders Environ Communities, Hillreed Homes and Taylor Wimpey. Local architectural styles allow the features of Kentish village houses to provide a sense of place, while modern specifications provide the latest lifestyle innovations. Importantly, a variety of homes are available for purchase at Kings Hill, allowing the community to become genuinely mixed in age profile. Prices start at £192,950 for apartments and range through two, three, four and five bedroom houses up to £892,000 for larger family homes.

More information about Kings Hill is available from the web site www.kings-hill.com.

The site includes travel information and the car share scheme, as well as details of Kings Hill's retail facilities.



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Before a long journey or one in the dark, you need to make sure that both of your headlights are fully functioning. To do this, just turn the ignition enough to be able to work the headlights, put the lights on and walk round to the front of your car. If one of your bulbs has blown, you'll need to get a new one.

If your oil light comes on, you could be in big trouble – you need to pull over safely and sort it out as quickly as you can, as without enough oil your car could be a serious hazard to you and other road-users.

Before long journeys, it is a good idea to check that the oil level in your engine is adequate to travel. To do this, locate the dipstick under the bonnet of your car, take it out and wipe it clean, look for the minimum and maximum indicators on the dipstick and then dip it back in the oil.

Windscreen-washers do need to be topped up

regularly, especially if you do any driving on country roads as silt and dirt will quickly build up on your windscreen.

You should always check your tyre pressure before a long journey; do this by putting the pressure of your weight on the top of each tyre with your foot – if the tyre has a lot of give and you are able to squish it down, then you'll need more air in your tyres. You can remedy this at most petrol stations.

Lastly, always ensure you have enough petrol in the tank to cover all eventualities.



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First GEAR MOTORING NEWS

- Skoda's Superb pulls in yet another award
- Hyundai sets pulses racing with all-new i40
- Ninth generation for Honda's reliable Civic



Nine years on and Golf Cabriolet is finally given a makeover

Driving

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RENAULT



Chevy hits Cruze control

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

CHEVROLET got serious in 2009 after tinkering with bits and pieces of cars produced from absorbing former Korean brand Daewoo in 2005 – it launched the new Ford Focus-size Cruze.

This was the General Motors (GM) value brand's first all-new model for the UK and European market and has gone on to become a true global model.

It was a far cry from warmed-over Daewoo Chevys – many derived from even older-generation GM cars. The Cruze also wore Chevy's new two-part grille with style and used a state-of-the-art platform from the then-forthcoming Vauxhall Astra replacement.

However, there must have been politicking behind the scenes because the Cruze arrived as a saloon only and Brits, in particular, do not buy many saloons in the Focus/Astra segment.

It rather suggests that Vauxhall, about to launch the latest Astra, might have been allowed to veto a Cruze hatchback at that time.

Nevertheless, the Cruze has been a big success for Chevy dealers, marrying looks and quality with first-rate safety features and the brand's typical value plus five-year warranty, and all enhanced by a racy image accrued from successful campaigning in the British Touring Car Championship.

And the car's popularity now has the chance to kick on with, finally, the addition of a hatchback version; while not as handsome as the saloon, it wins on practicality with a decent size load space and, despite the rear-end rake, good headroom.

Needless to say, it also carries over the style, smart interior, generous standard spec – including stability control, fully-adjustable driver's seat and air-con – and keen pricing of its saloon forerunner.

CHEVROLET CRUZE 2.0VCDI LTZ: PRICE £17,795



BIG LITTLE MOVER: The 2.0-litre diesel we tested is the pick of the range, while big successes in the British Touring Car Championship (picture above) has further boosted the Cruze image and sales

While it cannot compete dynamically with stars of the sector, such as the VW Golf, the Astra and the Focus, it is a viable alternative to other value contenders such as the Czech Skoda Octavia and those Korean twins, the Kia Ceed and Hyundai i30 – coincidentally, Chevrolet also builds the Cruze in Korea.

Cruze prices start at a tempting £13,805, but that's for the entry-level saloon in S trim – the hatchback starts at £13,995 in the more upmarket LS trim that brings you electric windows all round, alloys and more.

Even at these trim levels, interior quality and materials are impressive, with none of the scratch-prone finishes seen on earlier Chevys.

Dashboard layout is also top-notch, though my knee kept accidentally nudging the fan control, mounted low down on the centre console. There is also lots of useful stowage and – for the kids' game- and DVD-players – a 12v socket in the back, where legroom is also better than average for the class.

FACT FILE

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Image: | ★★★★ |
| Space: | ★★★★ |
| Value: | ★★★★ |
| Reliability: | ★★★★ |
| How green?: | ★★★★ |
| Road tax: | £130/year |
| Best rival: | Skoda Octavia |
| Kent dealers: | |
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Getting quality right at lower level also allows high-spec variants to truly impress, such as the £17,795 160bhp 2.0-litre diesel LTZ hatch tested here.

The diesel engine costs more but is the pick of the powertrain bunch, being powerful, smooth and willing in all situations and backed ably by a tidy six-speed manual gearbox – a six-speed auto costs an extra £1,000.

As we have previously reported, though, don't rule out the petrol engines and, notably, the affordable 122bhp 1.6 petrol – if you don't cover many miles, then this is a good budget buy.

On the other hand, business users and high-mileage private buyers looking for something different will like the diesel's power with economy – it should average around 50mpg.

Out on the road, it is soon obvious that the Cruze is set up more for comfort than handling, but it does not lack for grip.

The steering could be a tad light for some drivers' tastes, though.

First GEAR MOTORING NEWS



Generation IX for new Civic

HONDA'S order books are open for the ninth-generation 2012 Civic – priced from £16,495.

Due in January, it comes in 1.4 or 1.8 petrol or as a 2.2 diesel, with a fuel-saving stop/go system on manual versions.

A five-inch dashboard screen shows mpg, stop/go status, climate and audio settings. There is also an ECON mode to save fuel.



Now there's an i40 saloon

HAVING conceded estate or tourer models are taking over the family-car sector, Hyundai launched its first eye-catching i40 model in that format.

But the saloon model arriving in January will also have admirers, especially with the generous spec and pricing from £17,395, plus low emission, consumption and taxes.



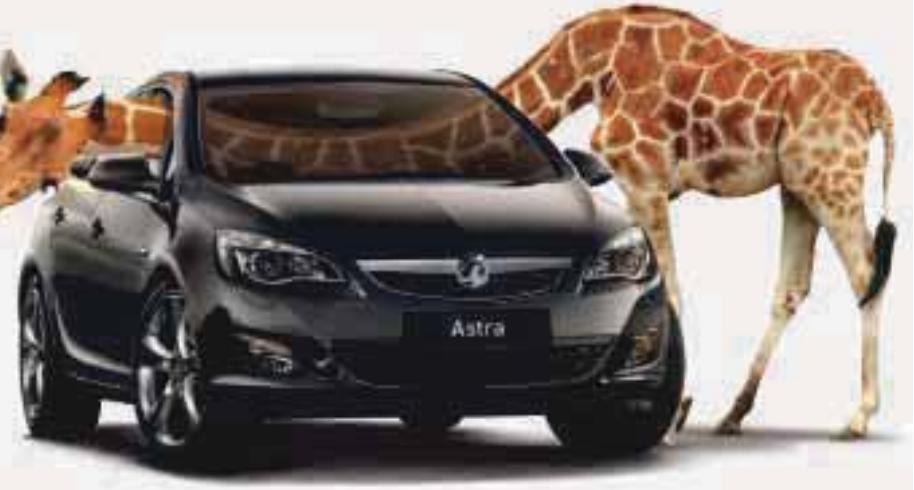
Pulling power of the Czechs

SKODA keeps retaining awards and the latest repeat win is the 2012 Caravan Club Towcar of the Year £25,000-£32,000 sector crown for the Skoda Superb Estate Elegance 2.0-litre TDI, fitted with the smooth twin-clutch DSG gearbox.

Judges said it was "the best on hill starts by a mile", "effortless to tow with" and "confidence-inspiring".

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Official Government Test Environmental Data – Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): New Astra SRi hatchback: Urban: 28.5 (9.9) – 60.1 (4.7), Extra-urban: 49.6 (5.7) – 80.7 (3.5). Combined: 39.2 (7.2) – 72.4 (3.9). CO₂ emissions 169 – 104g/km.

*Not available on Expression, ES, ES Tech models. **Finance Deposit Allowance not available on Astra GTC. Model shown is New Astra SRi 5dr. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading style of GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 19 December 2011. †Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply.

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Wind-in-the-hair Golf back after nine-year break

1st DRIVE

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

HAVING been a hugely successful maker of affordable four-seat convertibles, you wonder why VW has delayed nine years before replacing the Mark 3 Golf convertible.

Two latter-day reasons may be that the German marque already has the elegant folding hard-top Eos (from £23,130) and sister brand Audi produces the desirable A3 convertible (from £20,915).

In fact, with the newly-launched Mark 6 Golf Cabriolet, above right, costing similar money (from £20,720), the reasoning still looks shaky until you see the car and drive it – it is impressive and refined.

At the launch, VW made a beautifully-kept 1980s Mark 1 Golf soft-top available to highlight the new car's level of sophistication.

The old car and its Mark 3 replacement needed a roll-bar for safety, which marred its lines when the top was down, where as the new car has a hidden protector that pops up automatically plus copious airbag



protection should the Golf overturn.

The visual result is elegant, aided by a windscreens more sporty than the Golf hatchback, and by an automatic cover over the retracted roof.

Perhaps more impressive is how much of the standard Golf's exceptional interior refinement has carried over, despite lopping off the roof – 'roof-up' mode feels like being in a conventional hatchback.

Naturally, the hatchback's cabin has transferred, too, so everything feels well-made, durable and logical, though some buyers might expect more pizzazz – soft-top buyers are rarely shrinking violets.

Then again, maybe this Golf will

tempt those who haven't considered a soft-top before but recognise the VW delivers similar practicality to the three-door hatch.

OK, you lose the hatchback opening, but the efficient electric roof – it takes just 9.5 seconds to raise or lower – robs little boot space, unlike some folding hard-top convertibles.

Roof-down capacity is 250 litres – not bad against the hatchback's 350 litres with rear seats in place.

There is also an excellent choice of powertrains, including an eco-friendly 104bhp 1.6-litre BlueMotion diesel – the SE version (£23,245) is expected to be a UK best-seller with about a fifth of all sales.

The other top-seller is likely to be the entry power option, a turbocharged 1.2-litre petrol engine offering the same output, though I thought the lively turbocharged 158bhp 1.4-litre GT model (from £25,295) delivered the best for the Golf's excellent chassis and driver experience. Whichever version you choose, this is a highly useable as well as striking soft-top.

■ VW has also comprehensively revamped its popular Tiguan junior SUV – its fourth-best-seller after the mid-sized Golf, Polo supermini and Passat family model.

The Tiguan sits somewhere between a proper small off-roader like

the Land Rover Freelander and 'soft-roaders' like the Toyota RAV4.

For those who really don't need 4x4 but like the Tiguan's spacious cabin, good road manners and high driving position, there is an eco-friendly front-wheel drive option.

Uniquely, though, at the other extreme, the Tiguan is offered with a choice of two front ends: an 18-degree angle of approach selected by most buyers and an 'Escape' model, which has a more acute 28-degree off-roading nose.

There's also more dash about the car's looks now, particularly with a new grille in line with other VWs.

The new Tiguan starts at £21,085.

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Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Škoda range: Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 68.9 (4.1), Extra Urban 36.2 (7.8) – 94.2 (3.0), Combined 27.7 (10.2) – 83.1 (3.4). CO₂ emissions for the Škoda range 237 – 89g/km.

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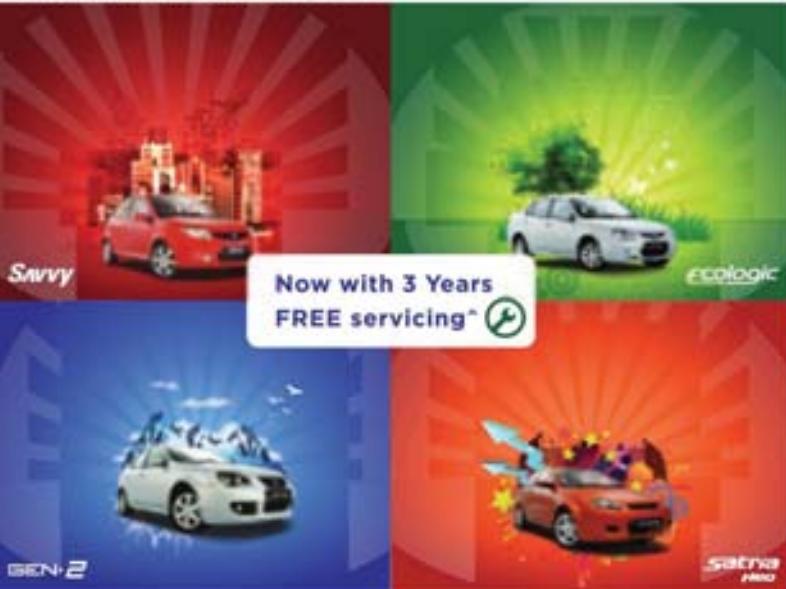
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*Price shown is for Savvy Style 1.2MT, manufacturer's list price £7,995 (excluding metallic paintwork) which is an option at £388. On the road price includes VAT, delivery, number plates, 12 months' road fund licence and first registration fee. *Warranty is subject to maintenance in accordance with manufacturer's schedules. 3 year or 60,000 miles. Terms and conditions apply. **FREE servicing on Proton vehicles registered from 22nd September 2011 until 31st October 2011 and available for the first owner only.

Commercial Vehicles

Bounce-back for van sales in the UK

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

COMMERCIAL vehicle sales have bounced back this year and are running at almost a quarter up on 2010.

That's not just good news for the industry – it may signal underlying confidence at last in the economy since vans and trucks oil the wheels of the country's business and industrial output.

Paul Everitt, chief executive at motor-industry mouthpiece the SMMT, said: "August saw the strong and sustained bounce-back continue across much of the van and truck industry as operators returned to more typical replacement schedules."

But he added a note of caution: "Industry is optimistic, but short-to medium-term economic uncertainty is likely to temper the rate of future growth."

His reluctance is understandable as domestic and international business

confidence remains in low gear.

And, as Mr Everitt hints, some demand has been driven by operators, large and small, recognising that they can only push so far beyond their normal replacement schedule before upgrading their vehicles.

Many have delayed in the hope of an economic upturn, only to find that ageing vans start to look tatty – with public image consequences – and incur more unprofitable downtime for maintenance.

On the other hand, many operators are upgrading for a new reason; van powertrain technology is beginning to echo that of the car sector, so there are real commercial and even public-relations benefits from running a leaner and meaner fleet with better fuel consumption and lower emissions.

For Kent firms operating into London, there is also an opportunity to save on the capital's congestion charge by buying vans with CO₂ emissions below 100g/km.



MOVING UP: The Renault range is a dominant force across the sector, launching a London congestion charge deal on new vans, worth up to £6,000 per vehicle

There are small diesels capable of this, but some makers get around this by offering dual-fuel petrol/LPG models, too.

Users of smaller vehicles also order

petrol vehicles and pay for an aftermarket conversion.

However, panel-van-operators cannot hope to escape the charge, so some makers have got together with

Transport for London, which levies the charge – due to increase to £100 per day for most vans on January 3 next year – and offered a subsidy worth thousands of pounds per vehicle to any operator upgrading against a new lower-emission van.

Smaller operators are also playing a part in the recovering market because they are being forced to buy new due to a scarcity of decent used stock, caused by the big boys hanging on to their fleets for longer and running up galactic mileages.

Indeed, a new report from auction giant BCA reckons the van market faces a 'black hole' in supply in the years ahead due to new-van registrations tumbling when the recession hit in 2007.

The report assumes that national demand for used vans will be in the region of 300,000 annually as the economy improves, leaving a yawning shortfall of some 275,000 first-time used vans entering the market between late 2011 and 2015.

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* Figures calculated based on Government EUDC Driving Cycle of 39.2mpg for Vito 113 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY van. * Vehicle shown for illustrative purposes only. Finance for BUSINESS USERS ONLY. Example based on a Vito 113 CDI Compact BlueEFFICIENCY manual transmission including first registration fee, RFL, plying, delivery and finished in white paint at a price of £18,750.30 + VAT on a Mercedes-Benz Finance Agility contract with a deposit of £7,188.13 that includes total VAT of £3,697.06 and a deposit contribution of £1,500 followed by 36 monthly payments of £281.67 and an optional final payment of £7,200.00. Finance based on 12,000 miles per annum. VAT is charged at the prevailing rate. Weekly equivalent £55 per week. Credit provided subject to status. Offer is subject to terms and conditions. Weekly figures for illustration purposes only, monthly terms apply. Vehicles must be registered between 01/07/2011 and 31/12/2011. Vehicles must be supplied by a franchised Mercedes-Benz Commercial Vehicles Dealer. Offer subject to availability. Finance provided by Mercedes-Benz Financial Services UK Ltd, MK7 BND.

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VAN FARE FOR THE COMMON MAN: Pick-up trucks such as the Mitsubishi L200, left, and the Isuzu Rodeo, far left, are now becoming more popular

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

WE'VE all heard of White Van Man, but is there another breed on the road worthy of the label – Pick-Up Truck Man?

Certainly, the number of pick-ups – also known as 'utes' (utility trucks) and 'bakkies' in other parts of the world – has rocketed in the UK in recent years, both as commercial and leisure vehicles.

One reason for private numbers rising is tax anomalies, but many commercial operators also recognise that they are relatively cheap yet capacious workhorses available with two- or four-door cabs and, in the case of the 4x4 models, able to go most places required on a

farm or construction site.

Could it be also that traditional off-roaders lack the carrying capacity and have become too gentrified? Or do the interlopers cater for an inner desire to wear a check-shirt, jeans and cowboy boots?

There is certainly an air of Americana



about contenders like the Mitsubishi L200, Isuzu Rodeo and the legendary Toyota Hilux – the vehicle that Top Gear failed to kill off with fire, water and violence.
However, Fiat has decided that post-re-

cession real-world economics needs to be applied to the sector, too, and has launched a version of its award-winning Doblo Cargo van, pictured left.

Called the Doblo Work Up, it's a 'dropside' vehicle with compact external dimensions allowing easy use in urban areas, though Fiat sees it selling across the agriculture, construction, maintenance or city parks services sectors, too.

It can transport anything from frames of glass to three euro pallets or 33 boxes of fruit. Both diesel-engine options feature a fuel-saving

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Go business-class with Citroën's free fuel offer

FREE fuel for a year is the tempting offer to small business and owner/driver van-buyers from Citroën at the moment.

Part of the French marque's 'Business Class' commitment, the offer applies to buyers via outright purchase or Citroën's Elect 3 Pro (PCP) or hire purchase (instalment credit).

Scott Michael, Citroën's commercial vehicle operations manager, said: "In today's tough economic climate, businesses need to make

savings and the new Citroën light commercial vehicle (LCV) Free Fuel for a Year scheme meets this key business need. It enables our business-sector customers to benefit from some of the most fuel-efficient LCVs on the market and also to have their fuel costs paid for 12 months."

Free-fuel customers can also make the fuel go further with the Citroën Trafficmaster sat-nav package fitted as standard to Berlingo, Dispatch and Relay panel vans.

Vantrepreneurs' challenge to male stronghold in van sector

GIRL power could be challenging White Van Man, according to AA Insurance.

Research showed that a third of van-owners are now women; female florists, perhaps not surprisingly, comprise one of the top categories.

The ladies say that modern van features such as air-con, CD/MP3 sound systems, power-assisted steering and sat-nav, plus better-arranged and car-like cabs, have made

it easier for them to encroach on what used to be male territory.

Norwich Union Direct research supported the AA findings and identified a new female business community dubbed 'vantrepreneurs'.

With women already exerting more force on how cars are marketed and sold, 'girl power' is widely expected to increase its influence on the van sector, especially as many of the smaller vehicles are car-derived.



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- Carminat TomTom Sat. Nav. Live-UK map
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- Left side loading door
- ABS Brakes with Electronic Brakeforce Distribution (EBD)
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New Renault Master MM33 dCi 100 Sport Van

LOOK WHAT IT'S GOT:

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White Van Man is given his creature comforts

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

VAN design has been revolutionised over the past decade or so. Operators have seen economy, efficiency and flexibility soar, while drivers have enjoyed better performance, refinement and safety.

Much of the latter benefits have come about because of crossover designs from cars.

Initially, this was confined to smaller models derived from superminis or family hatchbacks, such as the Ford Fiesta or Fiat Punto vans; all that was needed was to blank out the rear windows and the driver could enjoy all the benefits of the equivalent car-owner, including air-con and a decent sound system.

But the same philosophy has since travelled up the line to larger vans, which can sometimes be derived from the platforms of popular hatchbacks, too, even if the van body is bespoke.

The range of van capacities has also widened, varying from as little as three cubic metres for a car-derived hatchback used by a courier company or perhaps as a small company's runabout, right up to a 17 cubic-metre delivery van.

Access has improved, too. Many larger vans have low floors in the driving compartment for easy access and most vehicles above the supermini class now come with at least one sliding door as standard to aid loading; many buyers also take up the option of a second 'slider'.

There is now a choice usually of side-opening twin doors or a high-lift tailgate as well, while cab doors generally have a reduced opening angle, with the double benefit of making it easy for a busy driver to grab the handle to close the door and also avoid it swinging wide and hitting something.

On the performance front, petrol-driven vans may still be available, but they have been all but displaced by the better economy and range plus pulling power low down in the rev range of four- and five-cylinder diesels.

Diesel operating benefits are then compounded by extended service periods, lower maintenance costs and longer-lasting parts.

The engine's partner, the gearbox, has also had a change. A six-speed manual gearbox is normally the standard – a couple of cogs better than only a few years ago – but urban operators are turning increasingly to automatic, semi-automatic or clutchless transmissions.

These can usually be driven with manual selection anyway but are ideal for the stop-start traffic conditions of the town and city and can be as economical as a manual.

Van safety has also gained from the car market; along with driver's airbag and the option of passenger, side and front curtain airbags, there are active safety features including anti-lock braking (ABS), traction control (TCS), braking control (EBC) and electronic stability programme (ESP).



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DELIVERING THE GOODS:
Flexibility and economy of vans like the Trafficmaster, far right, and Mercedes-Benz Sprinter, right, have underpinned e-commerce revolution



By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

VANS lubricate the UK economy and they have become even more important with the arrival of e-commerce and internet-based ordering.

Such doorstep deliveries often require small cargo volumes but lots of stops and even greater choice of van and loading flexibility.

Whether it is a book or large item of office equipment, private and commercial customers expect the goods to be there within 24 hours.

And transport is the indispensable precondition: food, books and office materials cannot be sent through a broadband cable.

At the same time, society is changing: the size of households is decreasing, while the number of single-occupant households is increasing.

This has an effect on day-to-day requirements – people shop in smaller quantities and need smaller packs.

Internet action drives van sales

By 2015, the daily volume of parcels is expected to have doubled to some 14 million across the UK and Europe, compared with 1996.

The downside is increasing fuel prices, expected scarcity of raw materials and access restrictions to cities and towns. And the debate about emissions of fine particles, CO₂ and other exhaust constituents is forcing the transport sector on to the defensive.

On the other hand, e-commerce could help reduce traffic volumes if intelligent solutions are applied such as online supermarket shopping; while delivery traffic will increase, it should be balanced by much lower consumer traffic on the roads.

So low fuel consumption and CO₂ emissions are in the interests of the transport sector, even

if we don't take soaring fuel prices into account.

Mercedes-Benz – already one of the market leaders in the UK van sector – has pioneered a more economic and eco-friendly van operation with its Mercedes-Benz Sprinter with Eco Start and BlueEfficiency systems.

This model is particularly effective in densely populated areas with a high proportion of stop-and-go traffic, enabling considerable savings to be achieved – Mercedes-Benz estimates a normal reduction in fuel consumption by 5-8 per cent but sometimes as high as 20 per cent and offering rapid payback on the slightly higher cost of the Eco Start feature.

Other makers have been catching up, though, on emissions and there is a further fuel-saving/

emissions-slashing approach being pursued by Citroën LCV, which fits Trafficmaster Smartnav system as standard to its vans, including the Trackstar stolen-vehicle-tracking add-on.

The French marque has now fitted 50,000 Citroën vans with the system and claims some impressive figures to show what sat-nav can deliver:

- the equivalent of 6,500 working days regained in 2010 due to congestion avoidance
- up to 12 per cent improvement in fuel economy
- up to 10 per cent reduction in vehicle running costs
- up to 33 per cent reduction in driver stress levels
- greater vehicle security, with a 98 per cent stolen-vehicle recovery rate

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